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# THE DAILY TEXAN

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UNIVERSITY



## READ ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY'S MOST IMPORTANT STORIES OF THE SEMESTER ON PAGE 2

STATE

### Gun law discussion continues on campus

By Van Nguyen @nguyen\_\_van

Campus carry is here to stay, but several student groups are eager to change the law going into the new year. The law, which went into effect Aug. 1, prompted several student protests against it during the first week of school, but the controversy has nearly died down since. With the 85th Legislative Session beginning in January, talks of bills targeted towards the law have resurfaced. At the Board of Regents meeting in November, UT System administrators said they want to keep the campus carry law as is. This is among their top priorities going into the next legislative session. “We believe that all of our presidents ... used the discretions that’s found to make well-reasoned decisions as to where concealed handguns should not be allowed on each of our campuses,” said Barry McBee, UT System vice chancellor for governmental relations, at the meeting. “We hope to see those decisions in place.” Currently, those who want to conceal or open carry must have a license to carry in the state of Texas. Some legislators would like to change this law going into the next session so the

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STATE

### Legislators prepare for upcoming session

By Sarah Philips @sarahphilips23

With the new year comes the convening of the 85th Legislature, which is shaping up to be as contentious as ever, with several pre-filed bills dealing with everything from abortion to school choice to online voter registration. In November, Lt. Gov Dan Patrick, who presides over the Texas Senate, released his top 10 concerns for the upcoming session, including issues such as property tax reform, his Women’s Privacy Act, cracking down on sanctuary cities, banning “partial birth” abortions in Texas and more. Patrick’s Women’s Privacy Act, or “bathroom bill,” is already stirring up controversy, with State Rep. Celia Israel, D-Austin, calling the initiative a “social bill that only serves to

divide us” at a press conference in November. House Democrats, who are in the minority after the Nov. 8 elections, have rolled out bills that would allow Texas voters to register to vote online, eliminate the tax on feminine hygiene products and require the state to pay for at least 50 percent of public education. And on the Senate side, State Sen. Judith Zaffirini, D-Laredo, introduced Senate Bill 31, which would make it a criminal offense to use a cell phone while driving a vehicle. Similar measures have been unsuccessful in prior Legislative sessions. With all of these issues on the table, the question of the budget and the spending cap are concerns for those on both sides of the aisle. With

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CAMPUS

### International students reflect on time at UT

By Brianna Stone @bristone19

As the end of the semester nears, students are packing their bags to return home to different cities, states and for some, different countries. This semester, 5,399 enrolled students and 265 ESL students studied at UT from 122 different countries around the globe, with China, India, South Korea and Mexico bringing in the largest numbers. According to NAFSA: Association of International Educators, UT benefits the most out of all Texas universities from international students. These students were able to experience American culture, student life on UT’s campus and a historic presidential election. “One of the main contributions we bring to the University as international students is perspective,” said



Illustration by Albert Lee | Daily Texan Staff

Alfonso Rojas Alvarez, who is from San José, Costa Rica. “Many of us come from countries where horrible things have happened, or happen every day.”

Alvarez, who blogs for International Voices through the UT International Office, said as an ESL international student, he is privileged to be at UT and to call this

university home. “It is our duty not only to our own countries but to the U.S. to do our best

INTERNATIONAL page 3

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# SEMESTER IN REVIEW

FROM PAGE 2

**SO LONG, CHARLIE**

Tom Herman became UT’s next football following the firing of Charlie Strong after three losing seasons. Herman was previously the head coach at the University of Houston, where he accumulated a record of 22–4. Strong was fired from the head coach position following a 5–7 record for the second straight year. Strong went 16–21 at UT and missed a bowl game berth the previous two seasons. He also holds the lowest win percentage of any coach in Texas history.

—Paul Cobler, campus senior reporter



Zoe Fu | Daily Texan file photo

**ELECTION PROTESTS**

In the wake of Donald Trump’s election as President of the United States, many students and community members protested at UT and in downtown Austin. Less than 12 hours after Trump’s victory was announced in the early morning hours of Nov. 9, more than 300 students gathered in front of the UT Tower and marched through downtown for most of the day and into the night. The remainder of the week was filled with more protests and anti-Trump graffiti incidents on campus. Similar protests were seen in cities and on college campuses around the country.

—Paul Cobler, campus senior reporter



Joshua Guerra | Daily Texan file photo

**BAKE SALE CONTROVERSY**

The Young Conservatives of Texas held a controversial bake sale in October, protesting the University’s policy of affirmative action. The bake sale assigned costs to baked goods based on the race and gender of the purchaser. The bake sale inspired a protest of around 300 students for several hours and led to the creation of multiple resolutions by legislative student organizations and statements from the University. The bake sale and subsequent protest also received national media attention. In November, Student Government voted down a resolution supporting the disbandment of YCT in response to the bake sale. Multiple SG representatives who voted against the resolution spoke about YCT’s First Amendment right to freedom of speech, even if they disagreed with the bake sale’s message.

—Paul Cobler, campus senior reporter



Gabriel Lopez | Daily Texan file photo

Hundreds of students wielded dildos to protest for Cocks Not Glocks, a rally against the campus carry law, on the first day of school. The goal was to fight “absurdity with absurdity” by showing guns on campus were as ridiculous as carrying dildos on campus. The protest happened in conjunction with a Gun-Free UT protest and was held by those in the UT community. UT alumna Jessica Jin created the Facebook event as a joke in fall 2015 after she heard people on the radio say nothing could be done about guns on campus. The event took off from there with thousands of supporters RSVPing.

—Van Nguyen, system senior reporter



Emmanuel Briseño | Daily Texan file photo

**FRATERNITY ARREST**

During a party at the Sigma Chi fraternity house in September, a student was physically removed from the house for unruly behavior but then returned around 3 a.m. and shot security guard Edward Earls in the foot. Two of the shooter’s roommates returned to the party with him, but according to Assistant Chief Troy Gay, his roommates did not know the suspect had a weapon and they were not charged. No arrest was made until the night after the shooting, when police arrested the suspect on charges of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, according to an arrest warrant affidavit. Earls sustained non-life-threatening injuries, according to Cindy Posey, associate director of communications for University Operations. Neither the shooter nor his roommates are students at the University, the Statesman reported.

—Will Clark, crime senior reporter

**APD POLICE CHIEF**

Interim Austin Police Department Chief Brian Manley officially succeeded Art Acevedo in early December, marking the end of Acevedo’s nearly decade-long term. Manley faces the issue of APD’s shut-down DNA lab and the resulting backlog of DNA evidence. Manley, who was previously the APD chief of staff, has served APD for 26 years and hopes to become the permanent chief, according to KXAN. Once a full-time city manager is hired to succeed Interim City Manager Elaine Hart, a national search for a permanent police chief replacement is expected to be conducted.

—Will Clark, crime senior reporter

# SPRING PREVIEW

**REGENT APPOINTMENTS**

Gov. Greg Abbott will appoint four UT Board of Regent members in 2017. Terms for regents Alex Cranberg, Wallace Hall and Brenda Pejovich end in February, while Student Regent Varun Joseph’s term will end in May. Terms for regents are scheduled for six years, with three members having terms ending in the same year. A student regent is appointed every year. Currently, the governor has not announced any plans to reappoint any of the current regents nor to appoint alternative regents.

—Van Nguyen, system senior reporter

**PROTESTS**

Another Donald Trump protest is being planned for inauguration day, Jan. 20, in downtown Austin. Following Trump’s election, hundreds of UT students and Austin citizens marched through the city in protests on campus and downtown. A Facebook page was created to organize the upcoming protest, which now has over 1,000 people marked as “going.” Other smaller protests are being planned on the surrounding days, supporting things such as LGBT rights, women’s rights and abolishing the electoral college. These protests also have hundreds of people marked as “going.”

—Paul Cobler, campus senior reporter

**GOLF COURSE**

The City of Austin’s lease on the Lions Municipal Golf Course in West Austin, which is located on UT System-owned land, will end in 2019. Currently, the System has no plans in place for the land, but in 2009, the System revealed potential plans to turn the land into commercial real estate. The course is on the Brackenridge Tract and was donated to UT-Austin by former Regent George W. Brackenridge in 1910 with the purpose of advancing higher education. This purpose was never fulfilled because of the tract’s distance from campus.

—Van Nguyen, system senior reporter

**STATE LEGISLATURE**

As the year draws to a close, the State Legislature is gearing up for its 2017 Legislative session. Legislators will deal with issues such as abortion access, transgender bathrooms, school choice, online voter registration and more. State Rep. Gina Hinojosa, D-Austin, told The Daily Texan in November that she would explore ways the University of Texas could opt out of the statewide campus carry law, which was protested on campus by some students and faculty. Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick has also announced plans for the Woman’s Privacy Act, or “bathroom bill,” as a major focus of his this session, along with legislation restricting abortions, property tax reform and ending sanctuary cities in Texas.

—Sarah Philips, city/state senior reporter



Gabriel Lopez | Daily Texan file photo

**STUDENT GOVERNMENT ELECTION**

Student Government elections are coming up in the spring 2017 semester. The SG president, vice president, University-wide representatives and college representatives are all elected during the spring election cycle. Currently, no information regarding the elections has been announced, but they typically take place around March. Last year’s election was decided in a run-off, with Kevin Helgren and Binna Kim ultimately being elected president and vice president. Four out of five of the SG Supreme Court justices resigned following the campaign, leading to Helgren’s vow to reform SG from within.

—Paul Cobler, campus senior reporter

**HALL V. MCRAVEN**

UT System Regent Wallace Hall’s appeal to this dismissal of his lawsuit against Chancellor William McRaven will continue into 2017. Hall filed the lawsuit to access confidential student records for an investigation into an admissions process that admitted underqualified students. The original lawsuit was filed in 2015 but has been thrown out by two courts. It is currently at the Texas Supreme Court, and a decision has not been made at this time. Hall’s term as regent ends in February and he is not guaranteed to be reappointed by Gov. Greg Abbott.

—Van Nguyen, system senior reporter



Chase Karacostas | Daily Texan file photo



Stephanie Tacy | Daily Texan file photo

**CRINER CASE**

Eighteen-year-old Meechaiel Criner, the man charged with the murder of theater and dance freshman Haruka Weiser last April, is scheduled to appear in court March 27. His case is likely to be delayed due to APD’s backlog of DNA evidence. Criner, who was a minor at the time of the offense, faces capital murder charges, but because of a 2005 Supreme Court decision, he cannot receive the death penalty. If Criner is convicted and deemed competent, he will automatically be sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole after 40 years.

—Will Clark, crime senior reporter

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CAMPUS

# SafeHorns founders receive crime prevention award

By Will Clark  
@\_willclark\_

Joell McNew picked up a call from her son, theatre and dance sophomore Connor Sullivan, who described a swarm of police cars on campus.

McNew said his voice was shaking and he was obviously scared, something she doesn't hear very often. A student in the same college as Sullivan had been killed on campus.

Dance freshman Haruka Weiser's death in April shocked many on campus, including Sullivan and his mother, but McNew decided to respond to the tragedy by taking action.

In the days that followed, McNew and Jennifer Comstock, mother of public

relations junior Madison Comstock, created the groundwork for SafeHorns, a parent-led organization committed to improving safety for members of the UT community.

"Having my son come across [Haruka's] murder scene when the first responders found her body, and then him calling me and being so upset, I thought, 'I get it,'" McNew said. "I am very fortunate that it hasn't happened to our family, but I guess it left such a big impact that I don't want anyone to go through that."

Now, after months of working with officials and law enforcement both on campus and in Austin, McNew and Comstock will be awarded the Outstanding Crime Prevention

Citizen Award by the Central Texas Crime Prevention Association today at a ceremony in Killeen, Texas.

University of Texas police officer Darrell Halstead, who has served with UTPD for 29 years and now guards the President's office in the Tower, nominated the two after seeing their work with the community. Halstead said it wasn't only his idea to nominate them but rather something the entire department supports.

"One of the things we had been pushing for while I was there was to have parents, the community, students, the city of Austin and University working together for a common goal," Halstead said.

After Weiser's death,

Halstead said he watched McNew and Comstock take a proactive approach to safety in the community.

"All of a sudden, there's a parents' group that has taken notice and has shown a lot of concern for the safety and security of the students that are out here," Halstead said. "Not only for their Longhorn son or daughter, but for other students that are out here."

Comstock, president of SafeHorns, said the goal of the organization is to make campus and the area around campus safer for all members of the UT community.

"SafeHorns is about positive, constructive action to improve safety," Comstock said. "We don't want anybody to live in

SafeHorns is about positive, constructive action to improve safety. We don't want anybody to live in fear or to be fearful in any way.

—Jennifer Comstock, President of SafeHorns

fear or to be fearful in any way."

Comstock said she is grateful that law enforcement has recognized her and the organization.

"To have UTPD nominate us for this, and for the law enforcement community to recognize us for this, is amazing," Comstock said.

By winning the Central Texas award, McNew said they advance to the state level of the award, which will take place in June. McNew said she is

humbled by the award, especially since Halstead was the one who nominated them.

"It's so incredibly humbling to have someone of Officer Halstead's experience to first of all even acknowledge us without even meeting us," McNew said. "Most importantly, to have us be awarded for Central Texas and hoping that other people get involved, that it inspires them that one person can make a difference."

## INTERNATIONAL continues from page 1

to make the world a better place," Alvarez said. "Let's make a difference and show everyone the huge intrinsic value in a more diverse and integrated society."

Business junior Jonáš Kotyza is one of four students from the Czech Republic who studied at UT this semester. Kotyza said this was only his third time in the U.S. and his first time in Texas.

"We had choices between

many universities, but I wanted to come to the U.S.," Kotyza said. "I was choosing from Michigan, Atlanta or Texas and decided to come here because of the weather. It gets very cold in the Czech Republic, so I wanted to go somewhere different."

Kotyza said this semester was great to experience American culture, watch the presidential election and see what American college football was all about.

"I play football back home, but the sport is not

very popular in my country," Kotyza said. "Being at UT and watching college football in a huge stadium was amazing and one of my favorite experiences all semester."

Adjusting to a new country was not very difficult for Kotyza. He said UT's International Office did a great job helping him get acclimated to the University and provided a lot of resources to help international students.

Psychology freshman Yuwei Zhang, who is from Fujian, China, said being in a new

country alone and away from family for a long period of time is very challenging but said she is happy to be at UT.

"At first, it was very overwhelming to transition from living at home with my parents in high school to living by myself and doing things on my own in a new country," Zhang said. "I have enjoyed this semester as a Longhorn and have gotten to make a lot of friends and learn a lot about American culture. I am happy I decided to come to UT."

## CARRY continues from page 1

license isn't required, and Ana López, vice president of Students Against Campus Carry, said the organization will continue to try and stop this. López was also a leader in the Cocks Not Glocks movement earlier this semester and said they will be planning protests during the 85th Legislative Session.

"The emphasis [for SACC] has been put on permitless carry because

it's a big slap in the face to those who have been trying to circumvent campus carry laws," López said.

Permitless carry has been introduced before in previous sessions, but they were shot down.

SACC has partnered with State Rep. Donna Howard, D-Austin, and other legislators to file a bill allowing public universities to opt out campus carry, López said.

López said she doesn't believe campus carry can be repealed, but she wants to make the law more strict,

rather than open it up with permitless carry.

Students for Campus Carry will also be more active going into the next session. Brian Bensimon, Southwest Regional Director for SACC, said the organization is going to be a more active chapter on campus going into the spring semester. A president and vice-president have been chosen for the organization with others recruited for officer positions.

"Your goal [after campus

carry is law] is to get laws that don't restrict them," Bensimon said.

Bensimon said the organization wants laws to clarify which faculty offices are gun-free zones. They will also be promoting awareness on what it means to be a safe gun owner.

"We don't support anything that has the general effect of prohibiting someone's right to carry," Bensimon said. "People's rights should never be banned just because you walk into the professor's office."

## THE DAILY TEXAN

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HORNS UP, HORNS DOWN

Horns Up, Horns Down: Good Riddance, 2016

After being rudely reminded that there's one class day left this semester, we avoided studying for our finals by taking a look back on a few of the things that we've felt have made this year memorable — for better or worse. On the whole, we felt 2016 merits a Horns Down, and we feel just as ready as the rest of you to move on. But, out of some respect for the time we've spent, we've opted not to duck our heads and ignore it all. Instead, we mustered up the strength to go through a handful of things we feel we'll be most likely to begrudgingly look back upon in a few decades when someone makes the mistake of bringing this year up again. So settle in, pour some eggnog into your coffee and help us kiss this putrid year goodbye. It deserves that, at the very least.

Horns Down: Marathon election season leaves students gassed

At this point, we've spilled enough ink over the results and meaning of the 2016 elections. But when we look back at this particular year in our lives in 30 to 40 years, it's likely that the election will be the singular thing we remember, either because it overshadows everything else or because its results have driven us to drink too much and too often.

But somehow, we have to will ourselves to take some sort of mild step back and think about it all without getting making grand, lazy conclusions that run counter to available evidence but satisfy our deep, primal urge for understanding that we can communicate in 140 characters or less.

That might take a while. But there are things other than screaming "Why?" into the darkness from our apartment balconies in the middle of the night that are worth doing. In particular, we owe it to ourselves to give credit to the things we know went right, like setting early vote turnout records, and more broadly, for the available evidence showing that students upset with the results broadly did show up to vote against Trump.

In local races, this manifested itself in the election of Sally Hernandez, who ran on the promise not to detain undocumented people who have not be charged with crimes in order to deport them, to be the next Travis County Sheriff. It also shows in the number of students who turned out to vote during the primaries, and going forward, it can show through students showing up to meet with Texas lawmakers during the 2017 legislative session.

It makes sense to be unsatisfied when

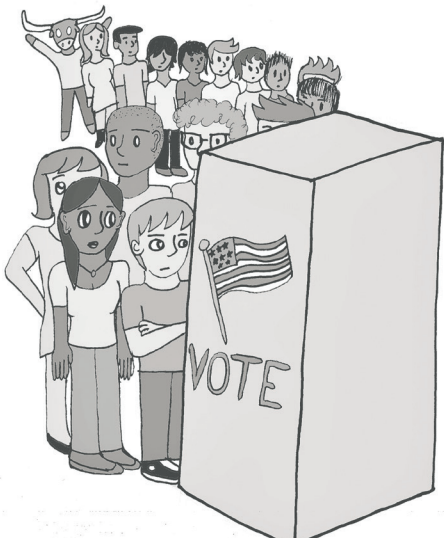


Illustration by Lex Rojas | Daily Texan Staff

your preferred candidate loses. This election cycle ramped up the emotional charge that came with that election, not just by raising the stakes in the decision but also by making sure that at every possible moment, we could hear two surrogates screaming at each other on television about that choice.

Until we return to some sort of normalcy, the swell of emotion we're feeling about these results, good and bad, can and probably will cloud us from judging what follows effectively. Alongside that responsibility to not make bad snap judgments, we're also charged with not making sure that 30 years from now, we regard 2016 as the good ol' days.

In that case, start drinking now.

Horns Down: Texas Sports put 'L' back in Longhorns



Illustration by Lex Rojas | Daily Texan Staff

In a year when we really could have used a pick-me-up, Texas sports really dropped the ball.

In Shaka Smart's first year as our men's basketball coach, we took a significant step forward, picking up a six seed in the NCAA tournament after staying competitive with Kansas and Oklahoma, recruiting top talent and setting the stage for a successful future.

We also managed to lose on a buzzer beater that was prominently featured in the 2016 "One Shining Moment" video. Even watching Baylor lose to a Yale team that doesn't offer athletic scholarships couldn't make up for that. There's nothing worse than getting goosebumps over watching your team lose in heartbreaking fashion.

Then, after a long summer of speculation and tweets about slides, Texas Football got back in action. After beating Notre Dame, it seemed all but certain that Texas Was Back. Being naive was fun, wasn't it?

The good news is that Texas Football was 4-1 in the Saturday games at DKR

that most students actually went to. The bad news is that we were 1-6 in the other games that we spent screaming at our television screens in our living rooms, or in the case of the Friday home game against TCU, in our grandparents' living room. Hell, the loss to Kansas is enough to call this year a disappointment.

To be fair, our volleyball and women's basketball teams have consistently done us proud, each losing in their tournaments to the eventual national champions — in the volleyball team's case, in the national final. Our swimming and diving, track, golf and rowing teams all won conference championships.

We're probably too spoiled to recognize it, but the money we spent on The Big Ticket went toward plenty of Ws — just not on the courts and fields that got the most hype. Maybe we'll recognize that some day. But when we give all of our attention to our football team, we deserve every missed tackle by Dylan Haines and every failed fourth-down rush by Tyrone Swoopes we got.

Horns Up: Student protests highlight year of activism



Illustration by Lex Rojas | Daily Texan Staff

In some regards, this semester has been defined by the things we protested. In a year without a dearth of things worth complaining about, students made sure to make their voices heard. And they did so in ways that grabbed our attention, for better or worse.

For several thousand freshman and transfer students, the very first day of class was also the first day that concealed carry was allowed on a class day with the University operating at its full capacity — and the day of the Cocks Not Glocks protest on the West Mall. And regardless of classification or your particular views about guns on campus, seeing University Democrats campus director Rosie Zander waving a dildo larger than her forearm in the air in an attempt to highlight the inconsistency of logic in Texas' obscenity and gun laws was no doubt an image that will stick with us for years.

Students made their way back to the West Mall throughout the semester sev-

eral more times. Young Conservatives of Texas' protest against affirmative action in college admissions in the form of a bake sale — during early voting, no less — drew hundreds to that same space to counter-protest, shout at one another or just take in the spectacle from up close.

And in the week after the election, as protests erupted across the nation against the election, in spite of his loss in the popular vote by an unprecedented margin, of Donald Trump, it was UT students leading the way as they marched across the city and into national headlines.

Make no mistake — campus carry, affirmative action and the Donald Trump presidency were not undone by the actions of a select few of the loudest students on campus. But in the face of things they disagreed with, they made their voice heard. And as political dissent itself becomes a more contentious topic, it is necessary that students are willing to stand up against things they see as unjust.

Horns Up: Musicians remind us how to feel anything at all

For all the terrible things we had to fight through, 2016 was a fantastic year to pop your headphones in and ignore the world. And even if Apple conspired to make that more difficult at every step, the music we got this year was nothing short of fantastic. And even when it wasn't — Meghan Trainor and Iggy Azalea released new music this year — turning it off just takes the press of a button.

We got several long-awaited releases, including Rihanna's *Anti* in January, Kanye West's *The Life of Pablo* in February, Drake's *Views* in April and Chance the Rapper's *Coloring Book* in May. The year also gave a few unconventional and unexpected releases. Kendrick Lamar dropped *untitled unmastered* in March, a compilation of previously unreleased and unfinished tracks that outdid most fully formed releases. A year after initially promising an album titled *Boys Don't Cry* in July of 2015, Frank Ocean released *Blonde* after putting out a visual album in *Endless* that got him out of his recording contract. And just days ago, we got *The Hamilton Mixtape*, a compilation of covers of tracks from and new material inspired by the original musical by dozens of contemporary musicians.

We also got *Lemonade*, Beyoncé's album and accompanying visual album that we decidedly did not deserve but desperately needed. She managed to salvage an otherwise unwatchable Super Bowl by performing exactly one track on the album, as well as her relationship with her husband and, in all likelihood, Tidal.

This is not to say 2016 was perfect. We lost Prince, Phife Dawg, David Bowie and Leonard Cohen this year, to name a few. But the latter two managed to put out two last near-perfect albums in *Blackstar* and



Illustration by Lex Rojas | Daily Texan Staff

*You Want It Darker* to further cement their legacy as songwriters capable of evoking something in millions. After Phife Dawg's passing during the recording of the first new Tribe album in 18 years, the remaining members and a host of guests finished the record, entitled *We Got It From Here ... Thank You 4 Your Service*. The record helps to sort through the pain of losing someone dear, but also reminds us why we seek musicians like them out: to get just a little bit of clarity about the world around us. Whatever music you claim as yours, we hope it inspires you to improve your world — and we look forward to arguing with you about it ahead of the 2017 Grammy's.



NATIONAL

# Army Corps of Engineers halts Dakota pipeline

By Sarah Philips  
@sarahphilips23

The United States Army announced Sunday that they will not approve the easement necessary for the construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline after almost six months of protests in North Dakota.

“Although we have had continuing discussion and exchanges of new information with the Standing Rock Sioux and Dakota Access, it’s clear that there’s more work to do,” said Jo-Ellen Darcy, Army’s assistant secretary for civil works, in a statement. “The best way to complete that work responsibly and expeditiously is to explore alternate routes for the pipeline crossing.”

Marika Alderink, director of the ATX Stands for Standing Rock fundraiser, said the announcement was a win for protesters but insisted that she would be keeping an eye on the situation.

“I’m glad and grateful that

the Army Corps of Engineers has finally listened to the concerns of the tribal elders and the citizens who have been calling in,” Alderink said. “However, I feel that it’s important for us to keep watching this story unfold, as it would be characteristic of Energy Transfer Partners to finish construction of the pipeline and swallow the fines, and characteristic of the Army Corps of Engineers to allow it. I want to be optimistic, but I can only feel relieved when I see real enforcement of this decision.”

According to the Army, the next step will be an Environmental Impact Statement, which would involve public input, to determine the best location for the pipeline. Darcy announced Nov. 14 that she had delayed her decision regarding the easement in order to speak with tribal leaders about the situation. The original proposed plan for the pipeline would have crossed Lake Oahe, which is an Army Corps of Engineers project.



Members of ATX Stands for Standing Rock discuss the situation surrounding the Dakota Access Pipeline and their current fundraiser for the cause.

Yifan Yu | Daily Texan Staff

STATE

# Possible House District 46 candidates prepare campaigns

By Cassi Pollock  
@cassi\_pollock

State Rep. Dawnna Dukes, D-Austin, announced she plans to resign from her elected position in September after winning her November election in a landslide.

Dukes has cited lingering health concerns as her reason for stepping down, and her announcement came amid an investigation by the Travis County district attorney’s office into Dukes using taxpayer dollars for purposes outside the Legislature.

If the Austin Democrat follows through with her plans to step down from the seat she’s held since 1995, it will become vacant on Jan. 10, 2017, the first day the Texas 85th Legislative Session

convenes. Texas Gov. Greg Abbott would have 20 days to call a special election to fill the seat.

So far, four Austinites have announced their plans to launch a campaign for the district seat, which covers parts of East and North Austin: Gabriel Nila, Sheryl Cole, Chito Vela and Adam Reposa.

Reposa, a criminal defense attorney, became the most recent contender to officially throw his hat into the ring in a Dec. 2 press release.

“I am excited by the opportunity to represent my neighbors in East Travis County as well as all like-minded people throughout Texas,” Reposa said in his press release. “Sadly, for many years District 46 has been neglected by the political establishment of the

Texas Legislature.”

Nila, a Republican, placed second behind Dukes in the November election and told The Daily Texan in November he would run for the seat once it became vacant.

“We’re making sure the message stays the same so that people know this campaign is helping families, promoting unity and ensuring our community grows stronger,” Nila told the Texan.

On Nov. 7, the day before Election Day, former Austin City Council member Sheryl Cole told the Texan she was running for the seat once Dukes resigned.

“I do plan to run for the seat once there’s a [special] election called,” Cole said. “I would be very honored to represent the people.”

Vela, an attorney and former chairman of the Workers Defense Project, told the Texan that Donald Trump winning the presidency pushed his consideration toward a district run to a “definite yes.”

“[Trump’s] win illustrated the need for strong, progressive Democratic voices and to push back against the rhetoric and negativity we’re seeing from Trump,” Vela said.

More recently, Vela called for Dukes to resign immediately instead of waiting until 2017 to make sure the seat was filled sooner rather than later.

“If Rep. Dukes waits until January 10 to resign, families in East Austin, Manor and Pflugerville would go without any representation in the Texas House for most of the legislative session,” Vela said

in a Nov. 30 press release. “By waiting so long to resign, Rep. Dukes is hurting her successor, her constituents, and all Texas Democrats.”

Responding to Vela on Twitter, Dukes said it was an “unpleasant campaign tactic” and added Vela was “uninformed” with “an incorrect assessment on the timeline.”

Vincent Harding and Kevin Ludlow are two additional people whose names have been floated for possibly running for the seat, but neither have formally announced plans to do so.

Ludlow, a longtime Austinite and small business owner, ran against Dukes as a Libertarian in both the 2014 and 2016 November elections and said he may run for the seat once a special election

is called.

Harding, the current chairman of the Travis County Democratic Party, told the Texan he was “seriously considering” a run on Dec. 4.

“I am proud of the work I did as a private citizen during the last legislative session to advocate for issues that are important to all Texans, including HD 46 residents, and plan to continue that work whether I run or not,” Harding said in an email. “I am prayerfully considering my candidacy and discussing it with my wife.”

If Dukes resigns and Abbott announces a special election race, the seat may be filled in March or the months following. The Legislative session ends June 1 should no special session be called.

CITY

# Inner Campus, Guadalupe intersection loses left turn

By Lisa Dreher  
@lisa\_dreher97

The exit from Inner Campus Drive and onto Guadalupe Street will continue to allow bicycles but not cars to turn left onto Guadalupe starting today, according to an email from Parking and Transportation Services.

“The intersection of Inner Campus Drive (ICD) and Guadalupe Street will be changed as part of our effort to improve campus safety for pedestrians and bicycles,” the email said.

Inner Campus Drive is a one-way road for bicycles and cars that splits into two exit-only lanes divided by a median at Guadalupe Street in between Sutton Hall and Goldsmith Hall. Bicycles and cars can continue exiting from the lane right of the median to turn right onto Guadalupe or continue straight down West 22nd Street, but the left turn-only lane now has obstacles only bicycles can pass through.

Engineering sophomore Aliza Castillo said cars wanting to turn left exiting Inner Campus Drive would have to find alternate ways to go southbound on Guadalupe.

“I feel like it would be inconvenient for cars [that]



Courtesy of Parking and Transportation Services

Guad changes: UT Parking and Transportation Services announced a slight change to Inner Campus Drive and Guadalupe Street.

have to go all the way around,” Castillo said. “I know I hate it when I’m driving on Guadalupe and there are no left turns.”

The 2012 Campus Master Plan, which prioritizes pedestrian and bicycle-friendly areas, includes major renovations of Speedway into a pedestrian mall. The mall is scheduled to be completed January 2018.

UT alumnus Michael Rahmatoulin, who graduated this summer and lives in Austin, said he recently started biking and feels the change to the Inner Campus Drive and Guadalupe intersection is minor but appreciates more bike-

“

There’s not enough traffic in that area to seem substantial enough of a change.

—Michael Rahmatoulin, UT alumnus

accessible areas.

“There’s not enough traffic in that area to seem substantial enough of a change,” Rahmatoulin said. “I think the whole Speedway area changing is a real positive thing. I was just biking on it today and making it seem more friendly is nice.”

## LEGISLATURE continues from page 1

as many partisan social issues on the agenda as there currently are, passing the budget could prove to be a difficult process, as House Democrats expressed in November.

State Rep. John Otto, R-Dayton, said the budget would be the tightest it’s been since 2011, according to the Texas

Tribune. A board of legislators set the spending cap for the Texas government at an 8 percent growth rate, a cap some legislators believe the state government will not be able to match with revenue.

As for issues affecting UT-Austin, newly elected State Rep. Gina Hinojosa, D-Austin, recently told The Daily Texan she would explore whether the University could decide to

opt out of campus carry with an argument for local control of policy.

It is unclear whether Hinojosa’s potential legislation could survive a vote in the House or make it past the Senate, but the upcoming session will allow students and other lawmakers to weigh in on the issue.

The 85th Legislative Session will convene Jan. 10.

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peacecorps.gov/apply

A large advertisement for the Peace Corps. It features a smiling man with dark hair and a beard, wearing a vibrant red patterned shirt, surrounded by a group of happy children. The background is a soft-focus outdoor setting. In the bottom left corner, there is the Peace Corps logo, which consists of a stylized dove and the words 'Peace Corps'.



HEALTH

Nutrition major dispels five final diet myths

By Stacey Arnold  
@staceyard94

Four years of case studies, dietary recalls and medical nutrition therapy textbooks have taught me the skills and knowledge needed as a dietitian. But along with all the stats and facts, I have also accumulated some nutrition pet peeves. While I covered many of these diet myths and misconceptions during my time at The Daily Texan, I thought that there was no better way to end 2016 than recapping my top five things that get under my nutrition-student skin.

1. Diets that eliminate entire macronutrient groups

Many people will try to “cut out carbs completely” to lose weight or embark on “low-fat” diets. However, healthy individuals actually require these types of nutrients to function properly. Carbohydrates, which should make up 45 to 65 percent of daily calorie intake, are the body’s main and preferred source of fuel. By cutting out bread for a week, you may see a large drop in weight — all water — but you’ll also feel moody, fatigued and mentally groggy. As for fats, they should make up 20 to 35

percent of your daily calories for vitamin absorption, nervous system function and hormone-building. The key is to consume the right type. (Hint: unsaturated.)

2. Overconsumption of sugar-sweetened beverages

Sodas, sports drinks and fruit juices are all refreshments loaded with sugar, sneaky calories and an increased risk for type 2 diabetes, heart disease and obesity — yikes. The 2015–2020 Dietary Guidelines suggest that only 10 percent of daily calories come from added sugars. So for a 2000-calorie diet — which is high for many individuals — this means no more than 20 grams of added sugar per day. This all sounds sweet, until this shocker: A 12-ounce can of soda contains almost double that amount with 39 grams. But sodas aren’t the only drinks to blame — fruit juices may sound like a healthier option, don’t be fooled. Many have extra sugar added. By consuming fruit in its original form, you’ll feel fuller from the fiber and eliminate added calories from added sugars.

3. Detox dieting

Speaking of drinking calories, juice cleanses and detox diets are another pet peeve of mine. There is no need to drop lots

of cash for fancy juices — your body has its own built-in detoxification system. The kidneys, skin, liver and gastrointestinal tract are all made to rid your body of unwelcome substances. These diets are often extremely restrictive in calories and could cause more harm than good from electrolyte imbalances and vitamin deficiencies. Adequate hydration and a well-rounded diet are all you need to hit your body’s reset button.

4. The misconception that healthy-labeled foods are healthier

Buyers beware: Food companies have clever marketing techniques that make products appear healthier than they really are. Check out the nutrition fact panel of some of your favorite “health foods.” You may find that the protein bar you snack on has as many calories as your dinner, and your “healthy” breakfast granola could have stats comparable to a candy bar. Or you could be unknowingly eating two to three times the recommended portion of a favorite treat.

5. Confusion between registered dietitians and nutritionists

Many people believe the titles “nutritionist” and “dietitian” can be used

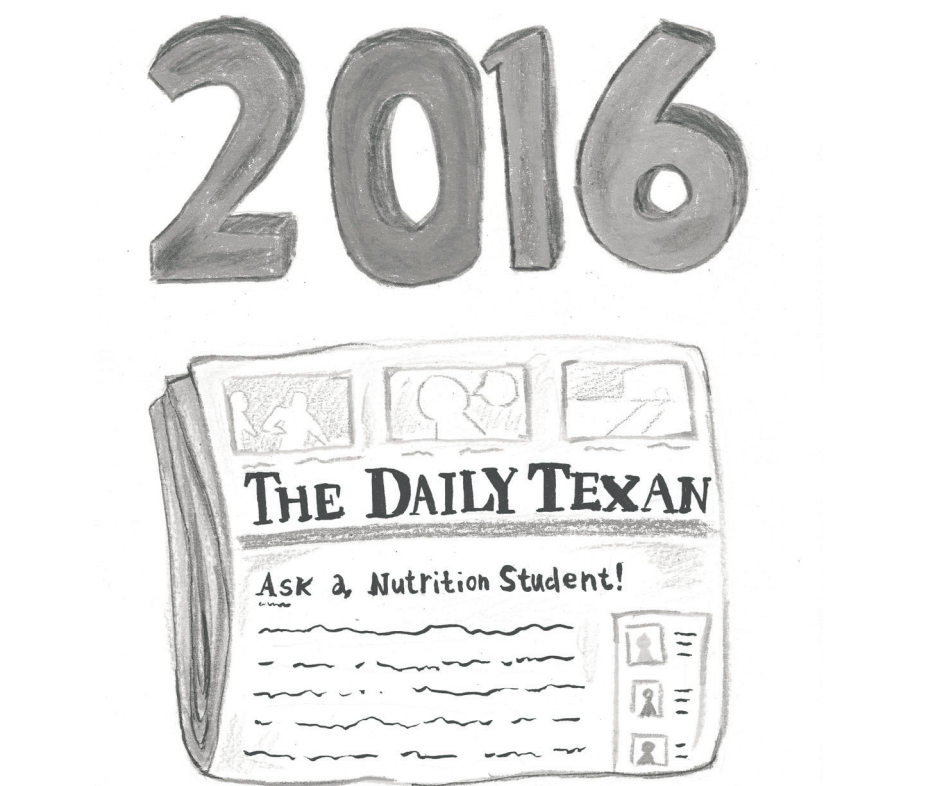


Illustration by Madi Beavers | Daily Texan Staff

interchangeably. However, this isn’t the case. Anyone can claim the title “nutritionist” — there is no formal training or certification required. However, a registered dietitian must have a bachelor’s degree, take the appropriate coursework approved by the Academy of Nutrition

and Dietetics, complete 1200 hours of supervised practice and pass a national exam. Because of the nature of nutrition — the ever-changing fads, the magazine columns and the diet books — it’s important to be mindful of your diet advice sources. And with those five pet

peeves, my rant is over and so is my time at The Daily Texan. I hope my nutrition column has helped you discern food fact from fad. This nutrition student is signing off — hopefully the next time you see me published I’ll have “RD” after my name.

HEALTH

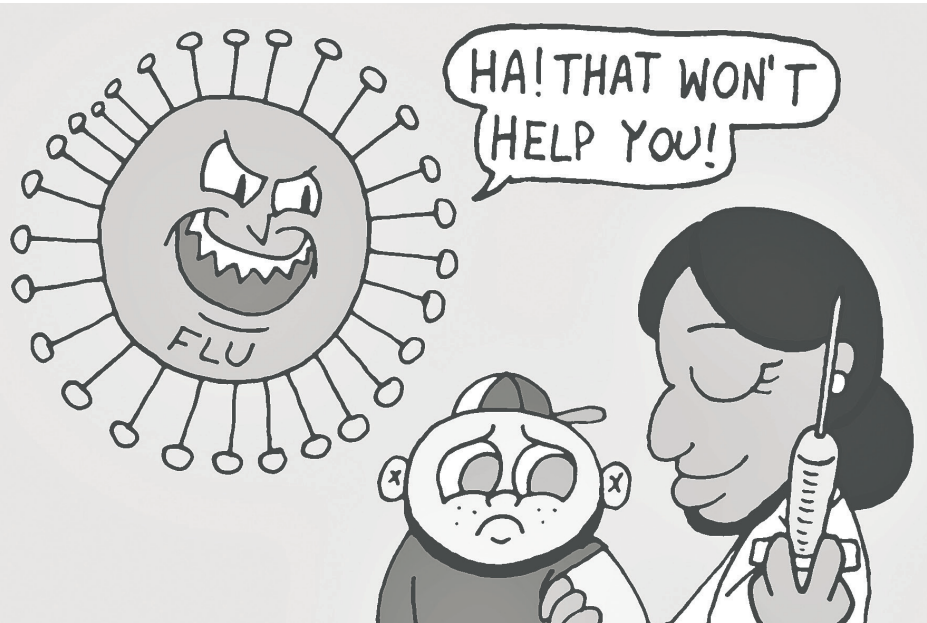


Illustration by Albert Lee | Daily Texan Staff

Study finds current flu vaccine less effective than previous year

By Annie Zhng  
@annielzhng

Getting the flu vaccine for 2016–2017 will reduce patients’ risk of contracting the flu by 36 percent, according to research by UT and Columbia scientists. This data means this year’s vaccine is 23 percent less effective than last year’s, which the Centers for Disease Control estimated as 59 percent effective.

However, these numbers shouldn’t discourage people from getting the flu vaccine, said researcher Andrew Blumberg, an associate math professor at UT and collaborator on the study. Blumberg said that because researchers can’t know for certain which flu strains will be prevalent in the coming year, it is difficult to make completely accurate predictions about vaccine effectiveness.

Blumberg and his collaborators’ predictions are based on analysis of the genetic diversity of flu strains in New York City and the effectiveness of flu vaccines in the past two decades.

The team developed two methods of predicting the rate of effectiveness of the flu vaccine. Unlike previous methods, which require directly obtaining data from the strains of the virus in a given year, the new methods require only a diagram that shows the biological relationships between the different flu strains, called a phylogenetic tree.

Blumberg said the first method, called tree dimensionality reduction, allows for

the division of a phylogenetic tree into smaller sections.

“What I developed with my coauthors was a method [that cuts] up a giant phylogenetic tree into little pieces and looks at the distributions of the little trees rather than the big tree in order to better understand the structure of the flu virus,” Blumberg said.

The other method involves the geometric structure of the space distribution of the trees.

“We developed a way to understand [the implications of] when collections of trees were spread out in a space that didn’t necessarily have the geometry of the set of trees [from the preceding years],” Blumberg said.

Researchers used this information to estimate the genetic diversity among prevalent flu strains in a year, according to Blumberg. The team determined a negative correlation between the flu vaccine’s effectiveness during a given season and the genetic diversity of viruses from previous seasons.

“What we found is that if you look at the distribution of the little trees that were made in previous years, and you can predict what type of vaccine is effective in any given year by understanding how much genetic diversity existed in the past year,” Blumberg said.

The World Health Organization creates flu vaccines each year that target the most common strains from the previous year.

According to Blumberg, if there is a wide range of genetic diversity of flu

viruses in the past year, then the effectiveness of the vaccine is lower. He said this is probably due to a decreased probability of selecting the correct strains of flu viruses to target.

“If you look at the data from the last couple of years, including last year, you’ll notice there’s more spread and more genetic diversity, and so that’ll make it harder to predict which strains will be active this year,” Blumberg said.

Although the increased genetic diversity may account for the decreased effectiveness, Blumberg said that “noisy” data on flu strains means the statistics are uncertain.

“The estimates from the CDC aren’t that great, and although the [graphs] in our paper are very suggestive, they’re not a precise prediction,” Blumberg said. “I think from the standard of how accurate these numbers are, I’m not sure there’s a huge difference between 60 percent and 36 percent.”

Still, Blumberg said that the methods and techniques developed in this study can be used to better understand disease populations, particularly different types of cancer, and to tailor treatment methods for patients.

“The hope is to use these techniques to develop ways to figure out which treatments are most effective for patients, see what tumors are susceptible to which kinds of interventions, and predict what patient mortality is likely to be,” Blumberg said.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Turing Scholars program surpasses donation goal

By Angela Kang  
@angela\_kang

With less than a month left, fundraising efforts for the Calvin Lin Turing Scholars Endowment have already overshot their \$25,000 goal. The endowment serves to benefit the Turing Scholars program, which is an honors program housed in UT’s nationally ranked computer science department.

Sarah Heier, associate director of development of the College of Natural Sciences, worked with other fundraisers in liaison with the computer science department to develop this endowment to honor Calvin Lin, who developed the Turing Scholars honors program over 15 years ago and has served as its director since.

“We’re successful because we did a lot of groundwork in advance,” Heier said. “We really want to get all of the alumni, or anyone that Calvin Lin has touched in some way, to [get involved].”

Heier said Lin has been an integral part of the Turing Scholars Program’s success since its launch.

“[Lin is] a visionary leader who’s very good at creating programs,” said Bruce Porter, professor and chair of the Department of Computer Science. “He’s very excited about the Turing program, and he brings that excitement to the classroom and the recruitment effort.”

According to Heier, the computer science department isn’t given much funding from

the University to support its students and programs. This endowment, which raises money through UT’s crowdfunding platform, HornRaiser, provides financial support to the Turing Scholars honors program and its efforts.

“The Turing program is trying to recruit the best and the brightest,” Heier said. “They’re competing against Stanford, MIT, Carnegie Mellon, [and other prestigious schools]. Oftentimes, they lose out on students because we don’t have any scholarships to give them.”

In addition to recruitment efforts, the endowment would serve to sustain and improve the Turing program.

“Our freshmen and sophomores view the community the strongest,” Lin said. “When they become juniors and seniors, they are not all taking the same classes together. We’d like to have some more programs and activities for the older students.”

To boost fundraising efforts for the program, the Kodosky Foundation, an Austin philanthropic organization, has pledged to match up to \$1.2 million in donations raised through 2018.

“We’d take those funds and invest it in a permanent endowment for the University that spins off 5 percent every year for spending for the department to give to the students,” Heier said.

Lin sees this funding as great potential for continuing the success of the Turing Scholars program, which has already produced alumni

“We want to keep doing what we’re doing. I have one vision: that we have enough resources to give out a lot more scholarships and full rides to students who come here.”

—Calvin Lin,  
Founder of Turing Scholars

now working for top technology firms including Apple, Google and IBM.

“Our reputation has grown. We’re getting great applicants from all around the world and country,” Lin said. “We want to keep doing what we’re doing. I have one vision: that we have enough resources to give out a lot more scholarships and full rides to students who come here.”

According to Porter, the Turing Scholars program facilitates success for its students by providing an academic and social aspect. Turing students take a personalized curriculum together as a cohort, giving the benefits of a small college alongside the advantages of a large public university.

“It begins and ends with students. That’s the best part of all,” Porter said. “It’s the excitement the students bring to the classroom. Every year, I teach a class that has a group of students in it that are just exceptional.”

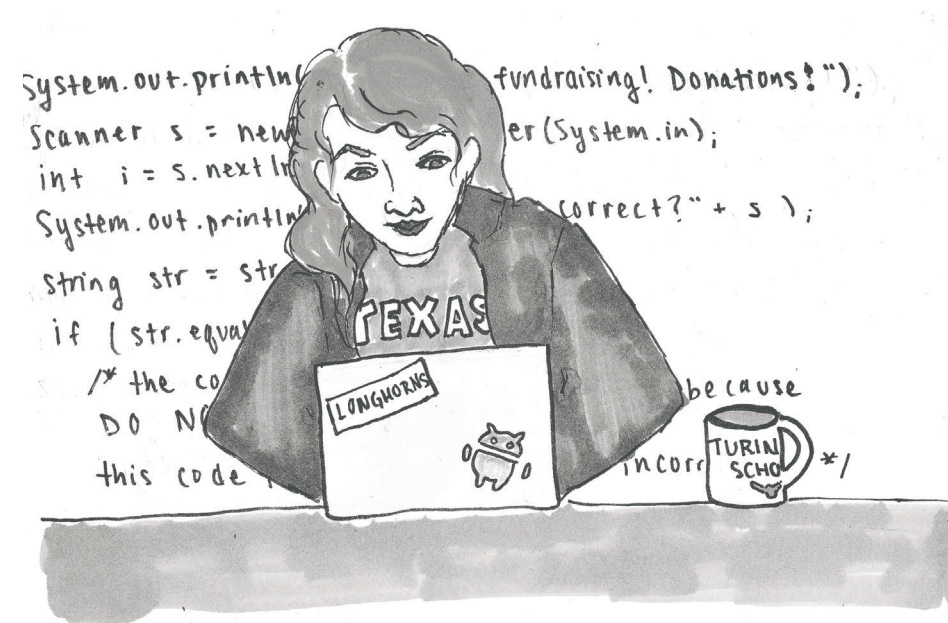


Illustration by Audrey McNay | Daily Texan Staff

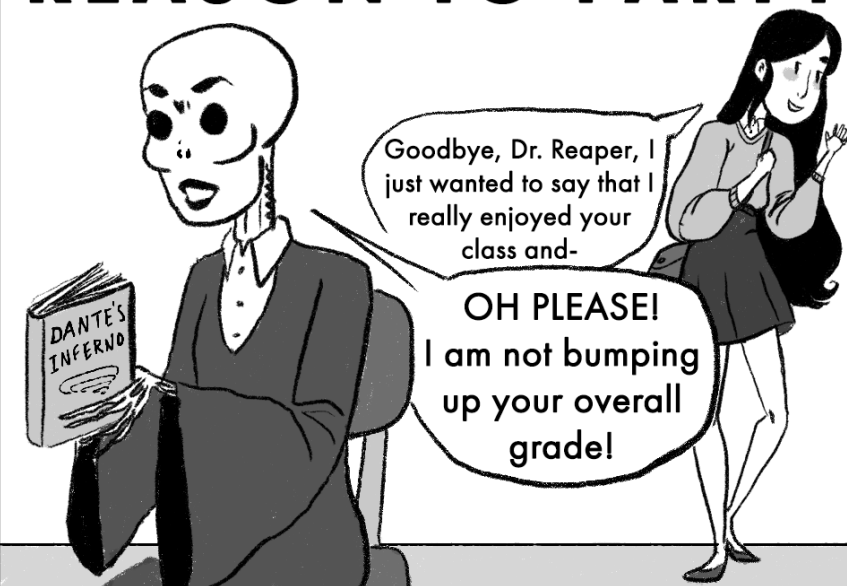


Deadly Texan Comics

Death Takes a Holiday

Today's

REASON TO PARTY



Goodbye, Dr. Reaper, I just wanted to say that I really enjoyed your class and-

OH PLEASE! I am not bumping up your overall grade!

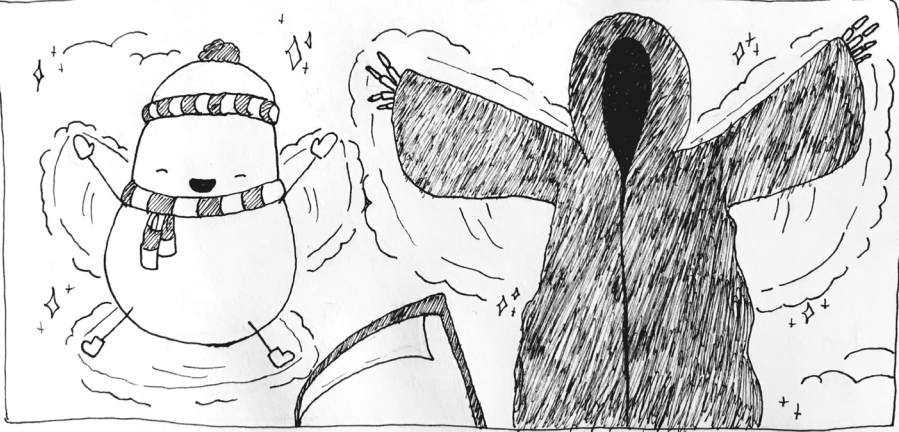
LAST CLASS DAY

December 5

NOEL RIVERA

Jeffrey

snow angel of death



by L. Moyer



PUBLIC SAFETY SUGGESTIONS

ALBERT LEE

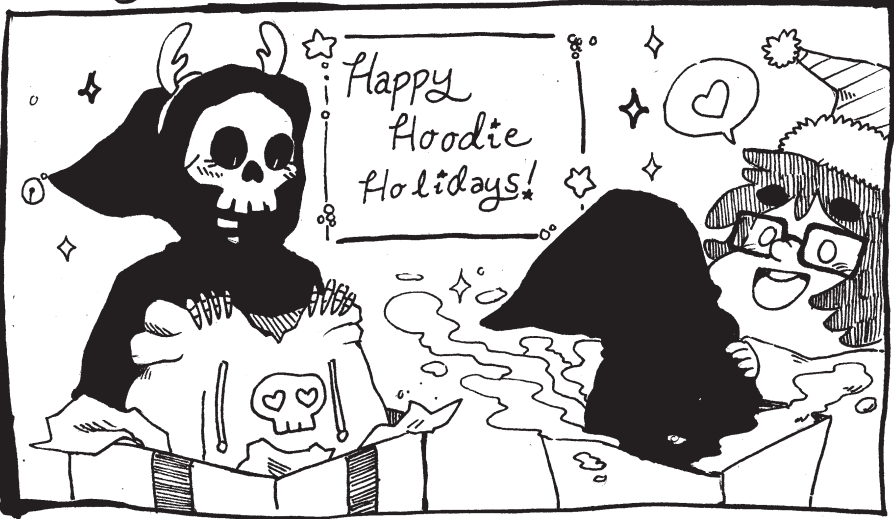


Pickles & Self-Hatred

by Mel W.



Always Hoodie Season



SUDOKUFORYOU

7	4	2	3	5	6	1	9	8
1	9	6	7	8	4	2	5	3
5	8	3	1	9	2	6	7	4
6	1	9	2	4	5	3	8	7
3	7	4	8	1	9	5	6	2
2	5	8	6	3	7	4	1	9
9	3	7	4	6	1	8	2	5
8	6	5	9	2	3	7	4	1
4	2	1	5	7	8	9	3	6

The New York Times

Crossword

- ACROSS
- 1

Twin city of Raleigh
- 7

Dictionary offering; Abbr.
- 10

The "m" of e = mc<sup>2</sup>
- 14

Italian cheese
- 15

Tire filler
- 16

Give off
- 17

1988 #1 hit for UB40
- 19

"\_\_\_ going!"
- 20

Oak or elm
- 21

Big feature on a donkey
- 22

Empty \_\_\_ (parent whose children have all moved away)
- 24

1971 hit for Marvin Gaye subtitled "The Ecology"
- 27

Toy gun pellets
- 30

Year: Sp.
- 31

List-ending abbr.
- 32

Regions
- 34

"\_\_\_ Lay Dying"
- 35

Like some textbooks
- 39

1920s standard with the lyric "Sugar's sweet, so is she"
- 43

Woman in "The King and I"
- 44

12, on a grandfather clock
- 45

\_\_\_ bin Laden, 2011 Navy SEALs target
- 46

Salt, chemically
- 48

Psychic power, informally
- 50

June precursor
- 51

1986 hit for Talking Heads
- 56

Classical music halls
- 57

Decay
- 58

Yawn-inducing
- 62

Gas in commercial signs
- 63

1990 hit that samples the bass line from Queen/Bowie's "Under Pressure"
- 66

1941 film "citizen"
- 67

Complain, complain, complain
- 68

Laid down the first card
- 69

Toboggan, e.g.
- 70

Route display on a dashboard, for short
- 71

Word with finger or America
- DOWN
- 1

Something thrown at a bull's-eye
- 2

Pusher's customer
- 3

Carnival attraction
- 4

\_\_\_ pants (baggy wear)
- 5

See 6-Down
- 6

With 5-Down, present time
- 7

Grocery section with milk and yogurt
- 8

German "a"
- 9

Crazily fast
- 10

"Old boys' meeting" places
- 11

Friendliness
- 12

Cry to an attack dog
- 13

One cubic meter
- 18

City between Dallas and Austin
- 23

A pitching ace has a low one, in brief
- 25

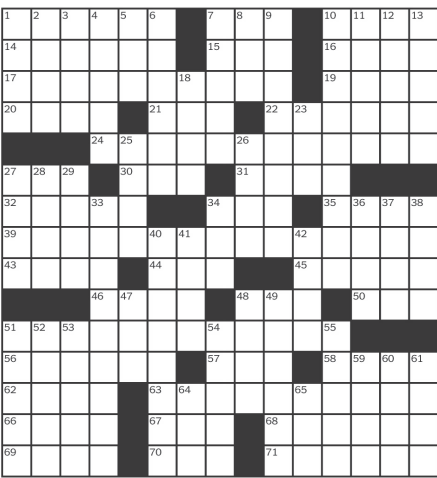
Like a Monday crossword puzzle, relatively speaking
- 26

Western plateau
- 27

See 34-Down

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 1031



PUZZLE BY PETER A. COLLINS

- 28

\_\_\_ Mawr College
- 29

Observed
- 33

Left behind
- 34

With 27-Down, foe of the Forty Thieves
- 36

Setting for "The King and I"
- 37

Funny Bombeck
- 38

June 6, 1944
- 40

Removing surgically
- 41

New York City mayor de Blasio
- 42

Head: Ger.
- 47

Barley beard
- 48

"The Time Machine" race
- 49

"30 Rock" or "3rd Rock From the Sun"
- 51

Policy experts
- 52

Perfect
- 53

Sierra \_\_\_ (African country)
- 54

Bottom-of-the-bottle stuff
- 55

Flowed back
- 59

Word that fills both blanks in "This \_\_\_ is your \_\_\_"
- 60

Brother of Cain
- 61

Jekyll's alter ego
- 64

Item of apparel often worn backward
- 65

Commercial lead-in to Pen

Online subscriptions: Today's puzzle and more than 7,000 past puzzles, [nytimes.com/crosswords](https://www.nytimes.com/crosswords) (\$39.95 a year). Read about and comment on each puzzle: [nytimes.com/wordplay](https://www.nytimes.com/wordplay). Crosswords for young solvers: [nytimes.com/studentcrosswords](https://www.nytimes.com/studentcrosswords).



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MOVIE REVIEW | ‘A WINTER ROSE’

# Unoriginal plotline, dialogue inhibit indie film

By Penn Harrison  
@PennHarrison

What if the struggles in your past prepared you for a better future? This hopeful message propels writer-director Riz Story’s indie drama “A Winter Rose.” Unfortunately, the film’s hopeful intentions and solid performances fail to overcome forced melodrama, amateur direction and a heavy-handed soundtrack.

In the first scene, a young mother abandons her crying newborn in a church. Twenty-one years later, Winter Rose is a shy, impulsive ex-prostitute who escapes her sorrows by drinking and writing songs she performs on her guitar, taking after her idol, pop superstar Rachel Love. Unbeknownst to Rose, Love was recently diagnosed with cancer and can’t perform a long-anticipated pay-per-view concert. Love hosts a contest to select a new songstress to replace her in concert. Love is captivated by Rose’s audition and selects her for the role, but can she handle being thrust into stardom overnight?

Kimberly Whalen gives

the film’s strongest performance as Rose. The script demands unrealistic emotional outbursts and irrational decisions from her, but she handles melodramatic mood swings and stilted dialogue with refreshing authenticity. When Rose confronts dark memories in the film’s finale, she transcends the stereotypical trappings of her “damsel-in-distress” role. And when we finally hear her perform — a song sung by Whalen herself — her voice is angelic.

Theresa Russell is equally believable as Love, who, faced with imminent death, encounters a young woman much like her former self. The script confines her to cringe-worthy lines like “the universe is an amazing thing — we’re soul sisters,” but her battle with cancer and relationship with her husband (Paul Sorvino) are genuinely affecting.

William J. Branca and Story’s script is painfully predictable from the moment Love and Rose meet. The dialogue alternates between passive-aggressive conversations, stiff melodrama and tired clichés. Of course Rose’s manager will abandon her due to her

unpredictable behavior. Of course he’ll return, offering to be a long-lost “father figure” and teach her trust. Of course, Love will see her younger, equally lost self in Rose and avoid explaining practical advice in favor of mystical musings about universal forces. The film is enthusiastically “indie” from its opening shot, but perhaps a seasoned screenwriter would have smoothed its implementation of nearly every cliché in Hollywood’s musical drama playbook.

Story’s direction is inconsistent at best. During Rose’s many emotional outbursts, he evades genuine depth with sappy music and slow-motion montages, pulling his audience out of the moment. As a result, he rarely maintains a consistent tone for more than five minutes. Even the film’s recurrent news broadcasts feel haphazardly thrown together and unprofessional. Furthermore, “A Winter Rose” never addresses a gaping flaw in its message: Rose’s emotional distress, alcoholism and self-destructive habits ultimately lead her to stardom, but Story fails to concentrate on the



Courtesy of A Winter Rose, QuietCity Productions  
Kimberly Whalen stars as a struggling singer-songwriter thrust into overnight stardom in “A Winter Rose.”

self-improvement and deliberate effort that bring deserving artists success.

Director Story notably composed the film’s entire soundtrack, an impressive feat, though his songs add little dramatic heft to the film. Individual pieces of his vision — genuine performances and a positive message — occasionally shine, despite clumsy production. Amid Story’s many poor directorial decisions, one great shot stood out: While Love is absent, her old microphone faces the window of her hill-top mansion and a panorama of Los Angeles, sprawling to the horizon below. Who will take the mic and impact a city

**A WINTER ROSE**  
**Rating:** PG-13  
**Runtime:** 99 minutes  
**Score:** ★ ★  
.....  
of millions when she’s gone? “A Winter Rose” answers that question — but achieves little else.

MOVIE REVIEW | ‘MANCHESTER BY THE SEA’

# ‘Manchester by the Sea’ actors shine in moving performances

By Justin Jones  
@justjustin42

Writer-director Kenneth Lonergan has created his first masterpiece. “Manchester by the Sea” is an unqualified success of intimate filmmaking, storytelling and psychology.

Modern filmmaking often focuses on larger-than-life escapist narratives. Superheroes and talking animals make up the top 10 highest-grossing films of 2016, so when a film as personal as “Manchester by the Sea” comes along and reverses the trend, it packs a strong emotional punch.

Casey Affleck plays Lee Chandler, an apartment handyman in Boston who lives a simple, apparently lonely life. When Lee learns his brother Joe (Kyle Chandler) has abruptly died, he immediately travels to his hometown of Manchester-by-the-Sea, Massachusetts. Joe left his son Patrick (Lucas Hedges) in Lee’s care, expecting him to move across the state, a request that both confuses and outrages Lee.

Much of the film plays out in flashback, gradually telling each character’s painful history. No character in “Manchester by the Sea” has lived an easy life, each struggling to overcome their past and learn to handle their own grief. Joe raised Patrick for most of his life without his mother, and Lee made a tragic mis-

take in his past, transforming a stereotypical Bostonian party-boy into a quiet and somber man.

The story reads as extraordinarily trite and typical of the “awards season” drama, but Lonergan elevates the plot through nonlinear storytelling techniques and the dynamic performances of his actors. Where the trailers sold an uplifting tale of familial love after the death of a father, Lonergan delivers a devastating story of people who have no clue how to cope with their grief. By saving Lee’s backstory as a mid-movie reveal, “Manchester” quickly turns from the decent if predictable Oscar film to a meditation on sorrow.

Every performance in “Manchester by the Sea” utterly shines. Affleck is perfect as Lee, making a wide range of emotion evident despite an understated performance. Michelle Williams plays Randi, Lee’s ex-wife, and delivers the most powerful moments of the film alongside Affleck.

Twenty-year-old Lucas Hedges is the breakout star, playing Joe’s grieving, confused, love-stricken son Patrick. Hedges is, in many ways, the heart of the film. Without him, it would slip into gloom, but he is able to supply a surprising amount of humor. Patrick has the strongest arc of the story, gradually learning to handle his own pain. He leans on friends and girlfriends — yes, plural — to help him get

“MANCHESTER BY THE SEA”  
**Rating:** R  
**Runtime:** 137 minutes  
**Score:** ★ ★ ★ ★ ★  
.....

by without actually processing the death of his father. When the grief eventually hits him, Hedges performs the realization perfectly, silently shaking and crying.

Lonergan shows an intentionally drab Massachusetts in winter, and the constant overcast weather matches the story’s tone while punctuating the few moments of color. The same can be said of the sound design. While silence fills the first seconds of the film, more pivotal moments are emphasized with the incorporation of the mournful, orchestral score, which progressively crescendos until it overwhelms even dialogue.

The script itself is wonderfully intimate and personal, feeling somehow autobiographical despite Lonergan’s promise of originality. Where some stories deal with grief and offer the characters closure at the end, “Manchester by the Sea” offers realism. The movie doesn’t end by wrapping up the characters’ stories with the promise of happiness — it simply stops. It is deliberately unsatisfying, mirroring the complex lives of the characters within the story.

ALBUM REVIEW | ‘AWAKEN, MY LOVE!’



Courtesy of Ibra Ake  
Donald Glover’s foray into the world of psychedelic funk is a success as he pushes genre boundaries for a vibrant listening experience.

# Childish Gambino album explores psychedelic soul

By Chris Duncan  
@Chr\_dunc

Donald Glover is a jack of all trades, and in many cases, a master as well. He’s found different personas and success in a multiple media, including standup, film and television, but the most interesting persona of all is easily Childish Gambino.

Childish Gambino began in 2008 with the self-released mixtape *Sick Boi*, an album that relied on hip-hop gimmicks in an attempt to be relevant. He has since grown to push boundaries and focus on more personal subject matter, especially with his 2013 album *Because the Internet*, which brought his ever-evolving abstract hip-hop sound to a close, emphasizing loneliness and evidential existentialism. With this newest album, *Awaken, My Love!*, Glover is headed in a different direction, adopting a psychedelic soul sound to transcend genre and deliver one of the strangest experimental projects this year has to offer.

For longtime fans of Glover’s output as Childish Gambino, the album’s lead single and first song, “Me and Your Mama,” came as a shock. It wasn’t familiar to most fans — some wouldn’t make the jump. However, for those willing to evolve with Glover, “Me and Your Mama” reveals itself as a bright and explosive track of pure passion, easily standing as one of the best — if not the best — single of the year. As Glover wails about his

relationship with his child’s mom and their future, it’s impossible not to be captivated by his enthusiastic delivery.

This transition isn’t as surprising as some make it out to be. Glover has always fostered moods and sounds that aren’t replicable. On *Because the Internet* and his 2014 EP *Kauai*, he hinted at a transition into R&B/soul. *Awaken, My Love!* takes it a step further.

Coming off the six-minute musical orgasm that is “Me and Your Mama,” Glover chooses to cool down a bit and foray into the sensual side of soul. The record’s third track, “Boogiemana,” brings one of the best grooves the project while commenting on the racially motivated fear of African-Americans that persists in modern society as he sings, “With a gun in your hand, I’m the boogiemana, I’m gonna come and get you.”

Other songs such as “Redbone” and “California” show off Glover’s taste for eccentric production and lavish instrumentation. Glover and longtime collaborator Ludwig Göransson contribute some of the best production on this LP. On “Redbone,” they bring in pitched/filtered vocals, a Wurliizer piano and a glockenspiel to surprise the listener. “California” will likely be seen as controversial because it clashes with the album’s overall mood, but the B3 Hammond organ carries this track to transcend any theme.



**AWAKEN, MY LOVE!**  
**Genres:** R&B/Soul  
**Released:** Dec. 2, 2016  
**Rating:** 8/10  
.....

In the moments where he does slip up, Glover manages to keep his sensibilities. “Terrified” misses its mark, bringing a strong message to the table to follow up on “California,” but the Moog synthesizer and programmed drums clash. Occasionally, his funky-adelic vibes feel just a little too powerful.


Casual listeners looking for another “Sweatpants” or “Freaks and Geeks” won’t be satisfied by this album. After the artistic success of *Awaken, My Love!*, there’s little chance fans will ever hear another hip-hop album from Childish Gambino.

*Awaken, My Love!* accomplishes a feat few albums can — it brings a retrospective vibe but sounds like nothing done before. It’s an abstract representation of Glover’s feelings, bringing in some of the richest and most compelling instrumentation funk can offer. For these reasons alone, this LP is a must-listen. It’s not perfect, but perfection wasn’t this album’s aim — raw emotion and soul are what make this project so compelling.

# THE DAILY TEXAN

## TEXAS STUDENT MEDIA APPLICATION AVAILABLE FOR EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF THE DAILY TEXAN

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Candidates are due to be certified at the TSM Board meeting scheduled for **Friday, February 3, 2017**

Please plan to attend and discuss your application with the Operating Trustees.



VOLLEYBALL

# Baselovic balances athletics and academics

By Leah Vann  
@Vanntastic\_Leah

Mirta Baselovic had more than the NCAA tournament on her mind last week. Adding to the preparation needed to win in the postseason, the junior middle blocker took her GRE. She said it's hard to balance school and athletics, especially at this point in the season.

"I've had three seasons somehow of just managing school and exams," Baselovic said. "And not being in classes a lot and volleyball and everything that goes with it. ... It was an extra thing I had to take some time and stay up later. I would travel and bring my big book with GRE examples."

Education has always been important to Baselovic. She came to Texas in 2014 after head coach Jerrett Elliott had recruited her during one of his frequent recruiting visits to Croatia.

"I recruited a player by the name of Mira Topic my first year here to turn the program around," Elliott said. "Mirta [Baselovic] ended up playing for the same club as Mira [Topic], so I flew over there and watched her play a

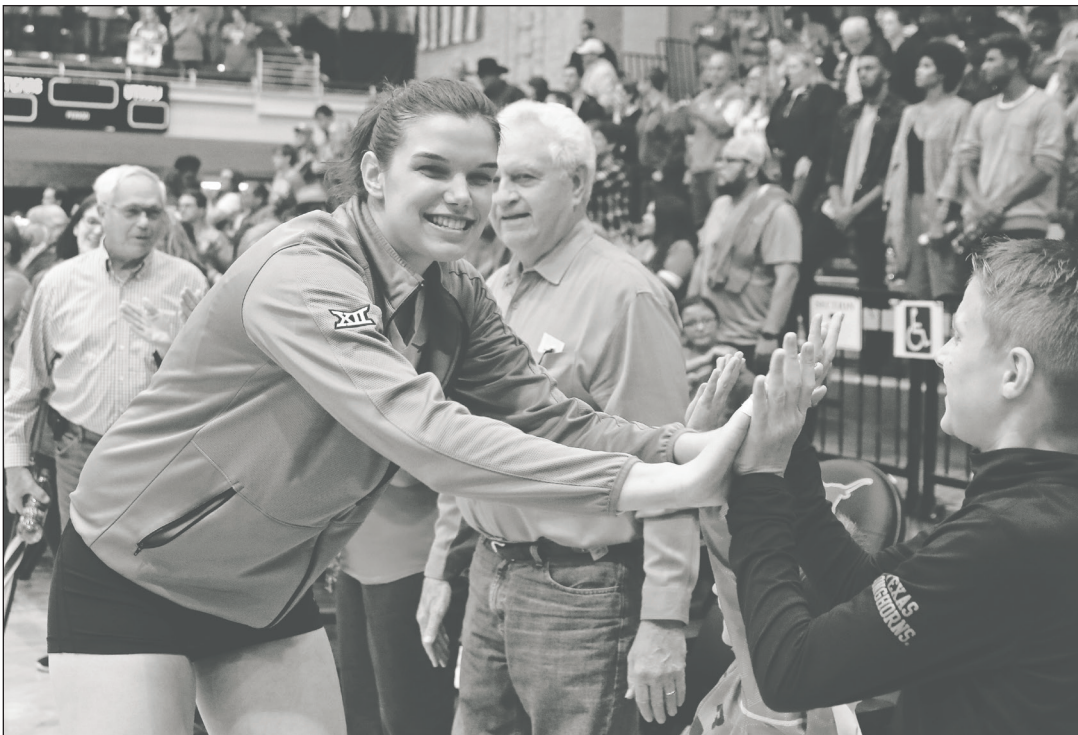
“  
So, if I could go back home and use what I've learned here to make it better for younger kids ... that would be my goal.”

—Mirta Baselovic,  
Junior middle blocker couple of times.”

Elliott's experience in Croatia was eye-opening. He said Baselovic played in a gym without a heater, and it was 38 degrees Fahrenheit when he visited her.

Baselovic had limited options in Croatia: play professional volleyball or go to college. Elliott offered her the opportunity to do both.

"I think it's one of those situations that makes coaching special," Elliott said. "Croatia is my favorite country, but in terms of [economics] it's not the strongest-growing country in the world. And so by her coming here I think it's opened her eyes to what some different opportunities she can have for herself and for her future



Junior middle blocker Mirta Baselovic celebrates during a game at Gregory Gym. The Croatia native has been studying for the GRE during volleyball season.

Joshua Guerra  
Daily Texan Staff

family, and she's always been very bright."

The 6-foot-3-inch middle blocker now majors in corporate communications with a Business Foundations certificate. She said she's fortunate to go to school in America since it's difficult to get a job in Croatia.

Baselovic has traveled the world with the Croatian national team. She lists Ha-

waii and Turkey as her favorite past destinations but considers Texas another home.

"Mirta is not a U.S. citizen, but she likes to think she is at times," senior setter Chloe Collins said. "She finds great joy in making comments about our political debates, especially with the presidential election going on. And the way her personality is, she's a very

stubborn and straightforward person, so I think she would be a great politician."

Baselovic's global experience with volleyball has sparked an interest in graduate school for international business or global studies. With her graduate degree, Baselovic hopes to return to Croatia to improve the economy and

increase opportunities for college students.

"I feel like it would be way better for younger people if some things could change," Baselovic said. "So, if I could go back home and use what I've learned here to make it better for younger kids who might want to stay at home and not travel 6,000 miles to get education, then yeah, that would be my goal."

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL | NO. 14 TEXAS 54-72 NO. 2 CONNECTICUT

## Longhorns fall in Elite Eight rematch against No. 2 Huskies

By Dalton Phillips  
@Dalton\_Tweets

No. 14 Texas faced a championshipsized test against No. 2 Connecticut Sunday.

The Longhorns (2-4) showed flashes, but the Huskies (7-0) took control late in the game to grab their 82nd consecutive victory, 72-54.

The two teams met last season in the Elite Eight, where the Huskies advanced and eventually went on to win the national championship. The Longhorns, who have now played four top-15 opponents, fell to 0-3 on the road and 0-4 against top-15 teams for the season.

Texas started the game with some momentum and closed the first quarter with a 17-15 lead. But Connecticut junior guard Kia Nurse

scored seven straight to open the second, sparking an 11-0 run to put the Huskies up 22-17. Connecticut embarked on another run in the second period, scoring eight unanswered points behind sophomore forward Napheesa Collier, who finished the game with 24 points on 10-15 shooting. The Huskies outscored Texas 24-13 in the second, taking a 39-30 lead into the half.

Junior guard Brooke McCarty hit a crucial three late in the third quarter to bring the Longhorns within two, but that was as close as they would get. Texas failed to convert on the next eight possessions as the Huskies went on a 12-0 run to earn a 63-49 lead midway through the fourth.

Despite a strong start,

head coach Karen Aston said her team struggled to capitalize on offense down the stretch. Turnovers dug Texas into a deep hole it couldn't climb out of. The Longhorns committed 26 turnovers, 14 more than the Huskies, leading to 33 points off turnovers for the reigning champs.

"The difference in the two teams is they're executing offensively better than we are," Aston said in a post-game radio interview. "When it's a two-point game at the end of the third quarter ... possessions really start to matter."

Texas found itself without its second-leading scorer, junior guard Ariel Atkins, for most of the game. Atkins left in the first quarter after hitting her head and did not return. Atkins, who is averaging 13.6 points per game



Senior center Kelsey Lang posted 12 points and 10 rebounds in Texas' 54-72 loss to Connecticut on Sunday. Lang recorded her second-straight double-double.

Joshua Guerra  
Daily Texan Staff

for the burnt orange, scored four points in seven minutes against the Huskies.

Aston said Atkins' absence was a huge loss for the Longhorns.

"That's our leader," Aston said. "It's disappointing for

her and for our team."

Texas has a week to regroup before hosting No. 22 Tennessee Sunday. The game will mark the first of a five-game home stretch for the Longhorns, who hope to use home court as

an opportunity to get back on track.

"This is a big week for us," Aston said. "We'll have four or five days to get ready for Tennessee, and we really need to get that win at home on Sunday."

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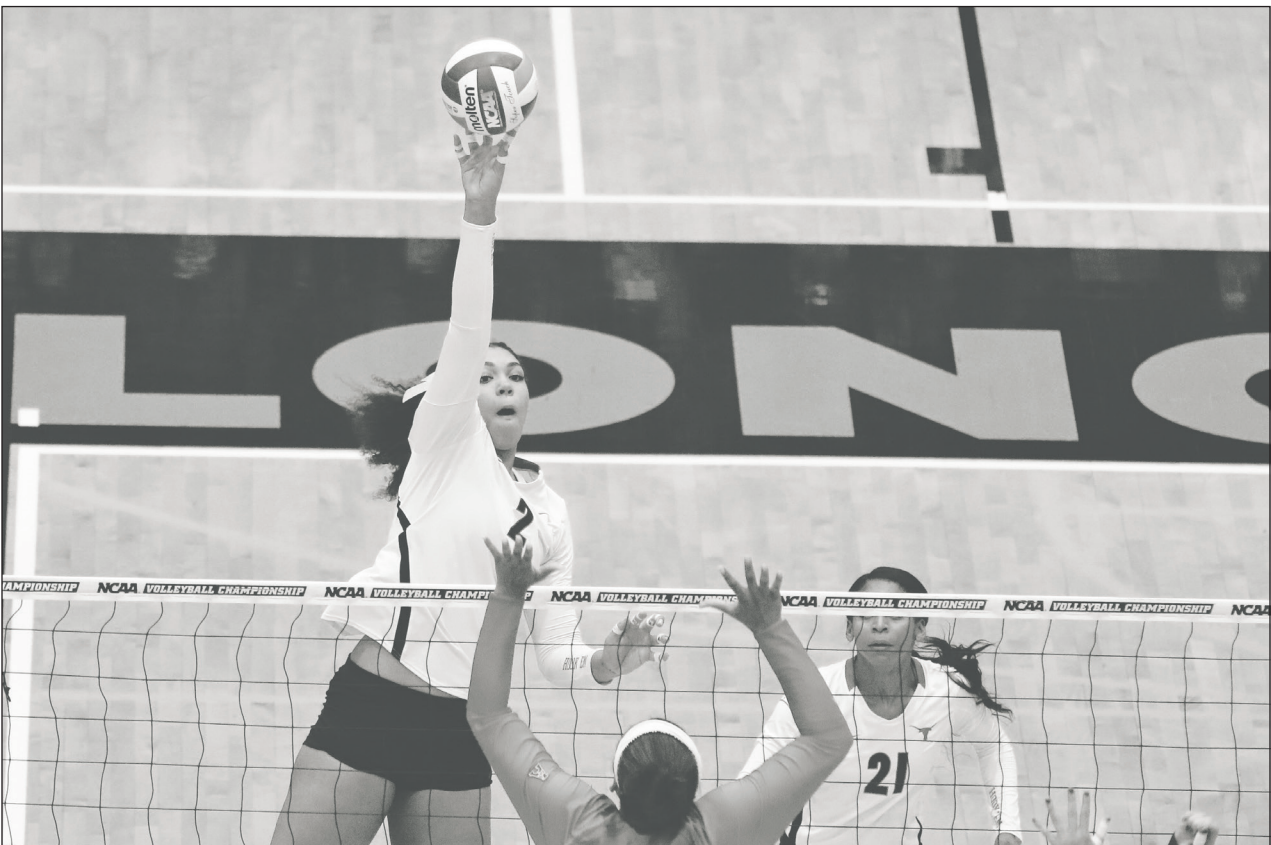
Volleyball | No. 4 Texas 3-0 SMU

Longhorns advance to Sweet Sixteen

By Leah Vann  
@Vanntastic\_Leah

SMU’s stay in Austin was cut short Saturday. No. 4 Texas (24–4, 14–2 Big 12) defeated SMU in the second round of the NCAA Tournament in a 3-0 sweep. With the victory, Texas advanced to the Sweet 16 for the 11th straight season and 29th time in program history. “Let’s give credit where credit is due to SMU for reaching the second round of the tournament,” Texas head coach Jerritt Elliott said. “This is the first time in their program history. Their libero is a fighter, and their two middles are really good.”

The Mustangs’ defense kept the ball off the floor early in the first set to take a 3-0 lead, but it didn’t last long. The Longhorns tied SMU five times before taking an 11-10 lead. Senior setter Chloe Collins sparked a five-point run by setting up a big kill late in the set, and Texas closed out on a Mustangs service error, 25-15. Senior outside hitter Paulina Prieto Cerame bolstered the Longhorn offense with seven kills in the second set, while junior Ebony Nwanebu consistently delivered at the net. The Mustangs tested the Longhorns until a four-point run gave Texas a 19-15 lead. SMU hung on late in the set, but Texas finished it up, 25-18.



Joshua Guerra | Daily Texan Staff  
Junior outside hitter Ebony Nwanebu reaches for the ball in Saturday’s 3-0 victory over SMU in the second round of the NCAA Tournament. Nwanebu had a team-high 15 kills for the Longhorns.

“It starts out with our passing,” Elliott said. “When our passing is there, our hitting percentages go up. So Chloe [Collins] just did a good job, and as our middles improve, teams are respecting them a little bit more, so it’s starting to open up some seams and starting to really do some things for our offense.” A series of runs helped the Longhorns secure a 15-7 lead in the third set. Texas’

defense continued to feed its offense, with three players posting double-digit digs. The team also limited SMU’s hitting percentage to .144 overall. Junior libero Cat McCoy led the pack with 18 digs, while Collins and freshman outside hitter Micaya White combined for 22. “[Teammates] just have really been emphasizing [to making it] easier on Chloe [Collins], so she can set nice

balls to our pin hitters and our middles,” McCoy said. “Just been working on that in practice, and I just made that the focus tonight.” Texas dominated the third set, 25-12, to complete the sweep. All three of Texas’ outside hitters racked up double-digit kills. Nwanebu led with 15 kills, while Prieto Cerame and White followed close behind with 14 and 13, respectively. No. 4 Texas is set to face

No. 13 BYU on Friday in the Sweet 16. The Longhorns will host the NCAA Austin Regional, which includes the Sweet 16 and Elite Eight rounds, next Friday and Saturday at Gregory Gym. “It is a blessing to get to the sweet Sweet 16,” McCoy said. “Is not as easy as everyone thinks. We are really lucky to be hosting it and having our fans support, because that is huge for us.”

Basketball | Texas 77-68 Alabama

Texas gets back on track with victory over Alabama

By Shane Lewis  
@theREALsplewis

It was starting to look like the same old story for the Longhorns Friday night against Alabama. Like their previous three games — all losses — Texas played victim to a sluggish start. The team opened the matchup against Alabama with three consecutive turnovers and struggled to shoot the ball throughout the half. After the first frame, Texas trailed the Crimson Tide, 38-26, and looked to be well on their way to a fourth consecutive loss. But unlike their previous three games, the Longhorns showed resiliency after a disparaging start and fought back to capture a 77-68 win. Senior center Shaquille Cleare, who finished with 11 points, said the team never doubted they could recover from an early deficit. “Going into halftime and we were down 12, our guys were motivated,” Cleare said. “Our heads weren’t dropped, and we knew we had a chance to win this game. We just fought back, we executed and we came up with the W.”

After allowing Alabama to shoot nearly 50 percent from the field in the first half, the Longhorns ramped up their defensive intensity, stifling the Crimson Tide to only 9-of-22 shooting in the second. Head coach Shaka Smart dialed up the pressure, employing the full-court press throughout the half. “We definitely played harder on the defensive end, and I think it’s just guys understanding that this is what we have to do,” Smart said. “We wanted to get some tempo going by using the press, and that helped us to not make it be a half-court game on every possession.” The Longhorns shook off the poor shooting that has plagued them all season and finally looked to be in rhythm offensively, shooting 56 percent after the break. The burnt orange clawed their way back into the game and took their first lead, 45-44, with 12:47 left in the contest. From that point on, it was a tightly contested affair. The two teams traded leads the rest of the way until Texas exploded for a 15-5 run in the game’s final four minutes to put the game on ice.



Stephanie Tacy | Daily Texan Staff  
Senior center Shaq Cleare hustles on offense during Friday’s 77-68 victory against Alabama. Cleare finished the game with 11 points for the Longhorns.

The Longhorns featured a balanced offense, with five players scoring into the double digits. Sophomore guard Kerwin Roach finished as the contest’s high-point man with 16. Roach attributed the team’s offensive resurgence to the insertion of sophomore guard Tevin Mack and freshman guard Andrew Jones into the starting

lineup. The guards took the place of senior guard Kendal Yancy and sophomore guard Eric Davis Jr. “Eric [Davis] has been in a slump, and Kendall [Yancy] too,” Roach said. “I just feel like [Mack and Jones] really came out with the energy we needed and executed on offense.” Texas hopes the win will springboard into

multiple victories as the season progresses. “This is a little glimpse of what we can be like,” Cleare said. “Going forward, we need to continue to be humble and work hard.” On Tuesday, the Longhorns travel to Ann Arbor, Michigan, to take on the Wolverines in their first true road game of the season at 8 p.m.

SIDELINE

NFL

TEXANS	13
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TOP TWEET



**Jerrod Heard**  
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TODAY IN HISTORY  
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No. 2 Alabama beats No. 12 Florida 28-21 in the first SEC Championship game.

SPORTS BRIEFLY

Longhorn women shine at Texas Invitational

With five school records broken and a top national time achieved, the Longhorn women washed away any doubts about their ability. The meet started with Texas breaking a school record in the only event of day one, the 800-yard freestyle relay. The Longhorns beat the previous record by nearly two full seconds, finishing with a time of 6:56.52. Day two featured three school records — two individual and one relay — and a national best time. Senior Madisyn Cox finished the 200-yard individual medley with a time of 1:52.83, the top national time and a school record. The 400-yard medley relay featured two school records in one race, with senior Tassija Karosas notching the record for the 100-yard backstroke with a 51.08 split to lift the team to a record-breaking 3:29.77 time in the 400-yard medley relay. In day three, Karosas lowered her record set the night before from 51.08 to 50.86, winning the 100-yard backstroke while Cox went on to win the 400-yard individual medley with a 4:03.16 finish, the second-fastest time in Texas history. Texas picked up four wins on day four. The Longhorns finished No. 1 and No. 2 in the 200-yard backstroke with Karosas (1:51.65) beating freshman Claire Adams (1:52.43). Cox swam a 2:07.21 in the 200-yard breaststroke, good for her third win and the nation’s fourth-fastest time. Texas finished strong, winning the 400-yard freestyle relay with a time of 3:12.29. The time was the best in the nation so far this year, even faster than Stanford’s star-studded relay featuring three Olympians.

The Longhorns have a lengthy break before starting back up against Auburn on Jan. 12.

—Turner Barnes

Why do people hurt the ones they love?

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# ME departs after realizing she has to leave at some point

By Jackie Wang  
@jcqlnwng

Editor's note: A 30 column is a chance for departing permanent staff to say farewell and reflect on their time spent in The Daily Texan's basement office. The term comes from the old typesetting mark (—30—) to denote the end of a line.

I'm a simple person. I love sleep. I hate saying good-bye. This semester has been particularly bad for both of those things.

I planned on leaving The Daily Texan three semesters ago but decided at the last minute that I would stay one more. A year and a half later, I was still here and realized I had spent most of my college life in The Daily Texan basement, accruing quite a stash of ketchup packets and Chick-fil-A sauces along the way. I may have ditched all appearance of a healthy diet and lifestyle this fall, but I am so proud of what we have done this semester at the Texan.

A few Daily Texan alumni reminisced about their days in the office when they'd stay up until 6 a.m. together after they put the paper to bed. And all I could think was, "My life's goal is to go to sleep by midnight," which is not the most achievable goal to have when you're a part of a newspaper, but a girl can dream.

But I am grateful for the hours I spent with fellow Texan staffers, no matter how many naps I gave up. The basement office is home, and through the Texan, I found a family on campus.



Illustration by Melanie Westfall | Daily Texan Staff

Jackie Wang served as managing editor, associate managing editor, special ventures writer, senior reporter covering city and state beats, Life&Arts writer and tech department staffer. Jackie will be remembered for her love of dogs and warm hugs.

Thank you Iliana and Megan, for being dedicated to this paper and a wonderful support system this semester. I couldn't have asked for a better team. Here's to all the P. Terry's we ate and the presidential debates we trudged through.

Thank you Amy and Nick, for your friendship, the

happy hours and the Spurs love. Nick dancing with Drake last spring will always be one of my favorite memories.

Thank you Peter, for your sage advice, your passion for strange basement-specific Olympic events and also bringing Phoebe to the office. Thank you department

heads, for the privilege of working with you and also for the cute puppies and strange Youtube videos you shared. You all did an amazing job growing your departments, developing your staffers and laying the groundwork for next semester. I can say goodbye to the Texan

knowing the paper will be in good hands.

Thank you Gerald, Emily, Stephen, Frank for your constant support and answering my many questions. You can stop thanking me, Colton.

Thank you to my friends and family, for understanding my unwieldy schedule and

loving me even when I was a mess.

And thank you, Mommy. I would not be here without your encouragement and love. You are the best person and the best mom. (Sorry, other moms.) I love you very much.

—30—

## Double Coverage editor says goodbye basement, hello thesis

By Daniel Clay  
@dclay567

"We don't really do five-paragraph essays here."

Something along those lines was the first bit of criticism I got from my editor Stefan Scrafield on my tryout article about my friend Reed Hogan's tryout for the U.S. National Rugby team.

I was quite confused. "How are you supposed to write then?" I thought. "What do you mean you can't just embed all your quotes in the same paragraph? My art history professors didn't tell me this?"

That's a pretty good indicator of what my time at the Texan has been like. I've been grossly unqualified for nearly everything I've done.

And ya know what? That's only possible because I've worked for the best college sports page in the country.

Only covering Texas sports could I get the chance to have T.J. Ford in my contacts, sit next to ESPN staff at a Texas vs. Texas A&M College World Series Regional game and compete with sportswriting lifers — and Michael Shapiro —

to get the inside scoop on Texas baseball. I was doing what the best sports writers in the country dream of doing.

More importantly though, I would not have been able to keep my head above water had it not been for people like Stefan who were willing to sit down with me and turn my five-paragraph essay into something coherent.

My other two editors Jacob Martella and Garrett Callahan, as well as the immortal "Sauce" Castillo and #BASED Mirchandani were so wonderfully patient, constructive and willing to show me how this whole sports writing thing works.

I was so excited when, this past August, the elite Ezra Siegel asked me to edit Double Coverage. My Texan bosses have been — and I've taken God knows how many writing flag classes — the best writing coaches I have had in college.

I wanted to take that legacy and be a teacher for my inferiors.

But they ruined my plans.

Every single one of the Double Coverage writers was fantastic. I didn't have to give them any guidance.

The copy, photo and



Zoe Fu | Daily Texan Staff

Daniel Clay spent five semesters at the Texan covering women's track and field, soccer, the "Where are they now?" beat and baseball and spent a semester as the Double Coverage editor. With all his free time, Clay will have to write a thesis about something other than baseball.

design editors did their jobs before I could find the time to text them and the elusive "Good" review from Peter became the norm for cover photos and spread stories.

Now though, I must depart. Thanks Daily Texan for the lovely late nights, the silly bets, and most of all, the community of failed athletes and aspiring dads that is the sports

department. I've loved every minute I've spent in that sunless basement because of y'all.

Now to go write my thesis on art. Which is kind of like baseball but

less beautiful.

I'm probably not qualified to write it, but if I could figure out covering Texas sports, I can figure this out too.

—30—



Joshua Guerra | Daily Texan Staff

### PHOTO BRIEFLY

#### Photo editor says final farewell to the basement

I am grateful to have been given another semester with the Texan. From photopits, the sidelines of sporting events and the front lines of protests, The Daily Texan has given me the ability to go places and

meet people I never would have otherwise.

I would like to thank the Texan staff for allowing me to document history with them and share my passion for photography. I know that I am

leaving here a better person as well as a better photographer. Although I will miss the Texan, I cannot wait for my next adventure.

—Stephanie Tacy

—30—

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# Associate managing editor delays departure

By Iliana Storch  
@ilianastorch

My last day with The Daily Texan should have been three years ago. But with every last day, I found a reason to stay.

In my first semester of college, I said goodbye to journalism as a major, designed somewhere between 14 and 15 Sports and Life&Arts layouts and even missed out on backstage passes to Maroon 5. I was ready to turn a new leaf in 2014 and trade in those late nights in the basement for eight hours of sleep.

But then there was Jack. A long-haired fella with a contagious laugh and a knack for baking the best cookies. He was the only person at the Texan who took a chance on hiring me, and when I thought my chance was over, he asked me to come back.

It didn't take more than 10 minutes to change my mind. I came back in the spring and designed another 15 layouts. At the end of the semester, I had yet another opportunity to leave but like all the others, I found a reason to stay.

There was Ginny, whose generosity and friendship came at a time when I needed it most. I knew she would become my best friend when she waited to walk home with me the first night we worked together.



In her seven semesters with The Daily Texan, Iliana Storch served as associate managing editor, design editor, Double Coverage design editor and senior designer. Storch will continue to celebrate Serversary on April 14.

Emmanuel Briseno  
Daily Texan Staff

There was Kyle, whose sense of humor and music choices kept me sane. I knew I could count on him when the server crashed and he still came in on his day off.

There was Aaron, whose devotion to people and storytelling is truly something incredible. He'll go off to do amazing things, and I'll look back at all the time we spent in the basement.

There was Kailey and Sarah, whose positivity and

joyful spirits made a server crash one of my more memorable nights.

There was Claire, who made the Texan a better place for everyone.

There was Kelly and Lillian, who taught me the importance of a work-life balance. I can always count on them for a good time.

There was Nick, Blanche and Amy, who were hands down the best Double Coverage team.

There was Megan, who just gets me (and my coffee addiction). Our friendship started with a Kin's coffee run, which soon turned into study sessions and football games. Now, I get to call her my roommate and get coffee with her every day.

There was Sammy, Elizabeth and sweet baby Megan, who proved to me that things just get better with new people.

And just when I thought I'd done it all, there was Jackie. I met Jackie when we were 17 and clueless. I thought I would never see her again after journalism camp, but here we are more than four years later and I'm proud to call her my friend, boss and fellow Cherub.

Jackie — your love, dedication and hard work is what made this semester so special. I

couldn't imagine working in management alongside anyone else but you. I've learned so much from just watching you, so thank you for this opportunity.

As I write this from the airport awaiting my delayed flight, I say goodbye. But when I look back at my time here, I can say The Daily Texan and the people here helped me fly.

—30—

# Social media editor looks forward to resuming sedentary lifestyle

By Andrea Liu  
@thedailytexan

Please bear with me. My writing at the Texan has been limited to short and sweet tweets and Facebook social copies, so don't expect this to make any coherent sense.

Although my time at the Texan was shorter than most, this semester has given me so many experiences that I felt a goodbye column was warranted. From on-campus protests to the 2016 presidential election to "Gilmore Girls: A Year in the Life," all I can say is these past four months have been one heck of a ride.

Because of the Texan, I have experienced things and learned things I never thought I would be able to. So here are some reasons I am thankful for my two semesters here:

I developed thicker skin. Seriously, people

on the Internet can be downright savage.

On the other hand, I feel like I have experienced Internet fame through retweets and likes. And not going to lie, it feels pretty good.

I've been in the same room as Matthew McConaughey. Granted there were at least a hundred people between us, but I was in his general vicinity. That counts, okay.

I met people that are willing to talk about "Gilmore Girls" indefinitely. However, I am firmly rooted in my belief that #TeamLogan is the best team. Everyone else is wrong.

I witnessed the craziness that is a presidential election day. It only happens every four years and I got to experience it!

I watched football and actually enjoyed it. I am still not entirely sure how the game works, but I can name

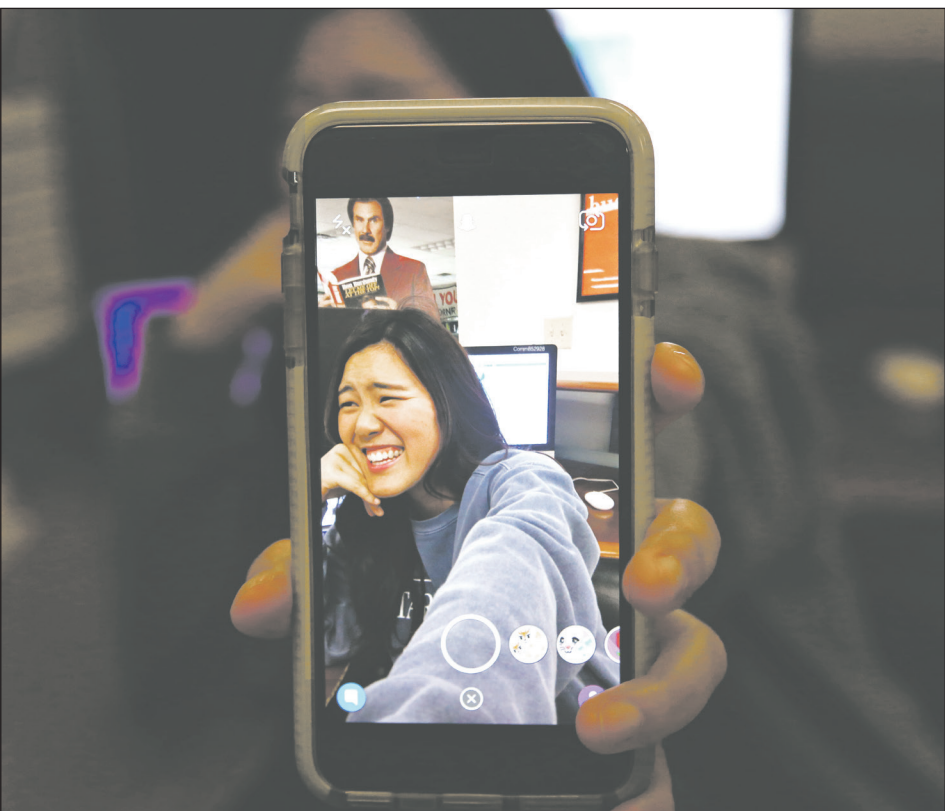
more than one player on the team now. Yay progress! And it even made me emotional. I love you, Charlie.

I learned that I am capable of walking from campus to the South First Street Bridge to Congress Avenue Bridge to the Capitol and then back to campus. Okay, yes I know some people run to the Capitol on a daily basis, but I once logged three steps on my FitBit for an entire day, so this was an accomplishment.

Although I am relieved I will no longer have to sprint from protest to protest to get Facebook Live coverage, I am sad to be leaving the Texan. The Daily Texan gave me so much while simultaneously forcing me to exercise.

My time at the Texan ends here, but I can't wait to see what comes next. Perhaps the Stars Hollow Gazette?

—30—



Emmanuel Briseno | Daily Texan Staff

Andrea Liu worked as social media editor for one semester. Previously, she was a social media staffer. Liu has plans to take a long nap and marry Logan Huntzberger.



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# Photo editor's three years at Texan felt like lifetime

By Daulton Venglar  
@DaultonVenglar

You know that feeling you get when you're at a party at someone else's place and it's starting to die down, and you feel like you should probably leave before it gets too awkward, but you stay anyway? Yep. It feels like my time at the Texan has really flown by, even though it has been three years. I could not have gotten where I am today if it weren't for my previous editors Charlie, Shelby, Lauren and Amy.

Thanks for hiring me, Charlie. If I had been rejected twice, I probably would have given up.

Amy, you were the best, and last summer wouldn't have been the same without you. Also, thank you for letting me vent my frustrations to you through text or in your office at virtually any hour.

Danielle, Aaron and Bryce, the pioneers of office ping-pong: Summer 2015 would not have been as fun if y'all weren't in the basement every day.

My fall 2015 photo staff: Thank you for putting up with me for the entire semester, especially



Daulton Venglar is an associate photo editor for the fall 2016 semester. He worked as a staff photographer in spring 2014 and fall 2014, a senior photographer in spring 2015, associate photo editor in summer 2015, photo editor in fall 2015, associate photo editor in spring 2016 and photo editor in summer 2015. He's going to miss beating Peter in ping-pong every day.

Joshua Guerra  
Daily Texan Staff

Stephanie. Special thanks to Pu for helping me keep my sanity that semester.

My summer 2016 staff: Y'all made this summer a breeze, and I hope y'all had as much fun as I did.

Zoe and Cano: Thank you for introducing me to Catan, and thanks for being the absolute worst :) I don't know how I could have made it through this

last semester without y'all.

Daniel and Lillian: Thanks for putting up with me every Thursday for Double Coverage.

Peter: Where do I begin? Thank you for all that you do even though you don't really do that much. I especially want to thank you for being my informal ping-pong coach. The 1985 Taiwanese national

team is really missing out.

To everyone, thank you for making the Texan feel like a second home. I don't know what I would have done if I hadn't stumbled across the Texan as an undeclared sophomore. I've made the best friends, and I'm truly going to miss walking down the stairs to the basement every day.

—30—



# The science of living in a basement: an editor’s goodbye

By Eva Frederick  
@thedailytexan

Cave-dwelling creatures are often pigmentless and eyeless, with translucent skin and a layer of thread-like sensory hairs. Fortunately, although they spend approximately the same amount of time underground, the same cannot be said of Daily Texan editors.

In fact, the life of a Texan editor is often bursting with color and noise, and the many hours spent slaving over articles in the basement of the HSM building do not result in the evolutionary losses experienced by the average cave-dwelling invertebrate.

However, practically living in the Daily Texan basement does have an impact on the physiology of editors. Some adapt to the conditions by developing a strong sense of AP Style and an overwhelming affection for their staff, while others

gain a heightened awareness of deadlines and a tendency to compulsively correct their friends’ grammar.

In this scientific profile, I will focus on one particular basement-dweller: Eva Frederick, the summer and fall 2016 Science&Tech editor. This species began working at the Texan in fall 2015. She started out writing weekly science stories for the Life&Arts sections and was there for the rise of the brand-new Science&Tech department, started by the unstoppable Ellen Airhart.

Her career as a reporter included articles on over-fed turkeys and blood-fearing doctors and inspired a passion for ball moss unmatched by the greatest love stories of the century. Her Zika article caused a small media flurry, to the dismay of her scientist sources, and she was once granted the honor of speaking to acclaimed neuroscientist David

Eagleman about the biological basis of ethics.

But when she entered the fall 2016 semester, she had a knot in the pit of her stomach. It’s hard to feel worthy of managing a staff of 17 amazing, brilliant writers, and she worried that her feet would not grow to fill the shoes Ellen left behind.

However, throughout a semester of editing, running meetings and generally working her butt off, the knot in her stomach dissolved and left nothing but love, pride and excitement for the future of the section to which she gave so much. She has gained a huge amount of confidence, both in herself and in her fellow students, and has developed skills that will last her a lifetime.

As she leaves the Texan office for the last time, this basement species would like to give a heartfelt thanks to her staff, and to her two associate editors, Kate and Zia. She



Emmanuel Briseno | Daily Texan Staff

Eva Frederick helped start the Science&Technology section and served as the editor for one semester. Post-Texan, she plans to keep making extravagant cupcakes and surrounding herself with as many plants as possible.

will miss them all greatly and is now faced with the dilemma of finding something to do with her continual surplus of baked goods. She knows she is leaving the Science&Tech section in good hands and is so excited to watch from afar as the section grows and flourishes!

—30—

# Sports editor apologizes for bringing bad juju to Longhorn sports

By Ezra Siegel  
@SiegelEzra

As a born-and-bred New Yorker, many back home were perplexed when I chose to head to the 40 Acres. I was asked, “Why would you go so far away?” and a litany of other irritating questions.

But at least there was some consensus: “You’ll see some great football, right?”

Wrong.

Ever since I stepped on campus in 2013, chaos has defined the Texas athletic world. I’ve seen three different athletic directors, three different football coaches, two different basketball coaches, two different baseball coaches and a whole lot

of losses to BYU. I’ve witnessed unthinkable upsets to Iowa State and Kansas on the gridiron and a half-court buzzer beater to eliminate Texas from March Madness.

In my three years at The Daily Texan alone, the Longhorns failed to finish above .500 on the football field. Is it a coincidence? Maybe. But the only other time Texas finished as a losing team in three straight years came in the 1920s.

So this is my apology to Longhorn fans everywhere. I promise it wasn’t on purpose. I won’t be offended if you ask me to leave.

Still, I can’t say I had a bad time along the way.

It was a blast to cover two seasons of 5–7 Texas

football alongside great friends. I couldn’t have asked for better guidance from Jori and a better partner on the beat in Nick. And Akshay was a champion for taking me under his wing as I prepared for a sports-department takeover this fall.

Shoutouts go to Shap and Ty for all the laughs — and excellent coverage — they gave me this season. I also can’t thank the rest of my senior staff enough — Shane, Claire and Sydney — for their help this semester.

And as I ride off into the sunset, I can’t help but think there are better days ahead for Longhorn sports. It sure as heck couldn’t get any worse, right?

—30—



Emmanuel Briseno | Daily Texan Staff

Ezra Siegel has served as a writer, associate editor and editor in the sports department. He covered two football seasons, but not a bowl game, during his time at The Daily Texan.

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# AME, headline queen can't write final headline

By Megan Hix  
@meganhix95

I almost didn't join The Daily Texan. Not because I didn't want to — though as a junior, I certainly waited long enough — but because my future editor Matt sent me a rejection email after my tryout.

*Thank you for trying out for the copy department. I regret to inform you... Please try again in the fall.*

I was crushed. I thought my tryout went well, but I apparently wasn't as versed in AP Style as I thought. The next day, however, I got a text from Matt: "Where are you?"

After sorting through the miscommunication, I learned that not only had I been hired, I was also late for my first shift. Thus began my career at the Texan.

After three semesters (and two summers), I can confidently say that working here has been one of the best experiences of my life. I learned how to dig for pitches, ask the hard questions and do whatever it takes to meet that all-important deadline.

From copy, I learned it's the 40 Acres, not the "Forty Acres." I know there's a world of difference between a hyphen, an en dash and an em dash, and I think I'm better for it. Thanks to everyone in copy who edits the paper each night — you don't hear it enough.



Megan Hix worked as associate managing editor, Life&Arts editor, Life&Arts associate editor, associate copy desk chief, copy kitten and two-time podcast guest. Megan will miss Kelly's office playlist, correcting people's grammar and coffee runs with Iliana.

Zoe Fu  
Daily Texan Staff

Then there's my Life&Arts ladies. Danielle, thanks for letting me write and for welcoming me into the L&A family with such open arms. Here's to many more Trudy's margaritas together. Cat, you're one of the best writers I've ever met. I can't wait to see where that gift takes you. Elizabeth, I am so proud of the work you did this fall. We'll miss you next semester! KT, thanks for

the brownies, for encouraging me, for making the basement fun and, most of all, for being my friend.

Kelly, you make my job easy. Ireland is lucky to have you. To our news staff: I can't imagine a more chaotic semester, but I was constantly impressed watching you all handle breaking news like pros.

Peter, thanks for letting us

figure things out on our own but always being there to help — and for rigging Staff Olympics in my favor.

Ginny, thanks for making the Texan feel like home, for leaving the light on for me and for laughing at all of my jokes — Tuesdays were always my favorite.

Jackie, our fearless leader, thank you for picking me for this insane job this se-

mester. As much as you care about this paper, you care about every individual in the newsroom. You inspire me to be a better journalist and a better person.

Iliana, what can I say? Without the Texan, I would've missed out on becoming your study partner, roommate and friend. Thanks for being there for me always. There's no one I would've rather had by my

side — both literally and figuratively — while I pretended to know what I was doing.

I don't know what my future holds in my final semester at UT, much less after that, but I do know that my college experience was made so much better by all of the hard-working, passionate, genuinely kind people I met in the basement. See you around.

—30—

# Design editor conquers old frenemy: spinning wheel of death

By Kelly Smith  
@thedailytexan

Frankly, this feels a bit funny. For two and a half years, I have worked in my beloved design department just trying to make words look pretty, never writing them. Here I am now, a designer, writing amongst some of the best young writers and future journalists in the country. Luckily, because of this I have no hesitation in compromising my journalistic integrity and continuing the rest of this farewell in the form of a listicle. Here are the top 10 reasons I love The Daily Texan:

## 1. It is a mad house.

There is no other explanation to explain why these overworked, underpaid students continue to come back to work every night and blow my mind with their intelligence, creativity and drive.

## 2. Halal Bros' loaded french fries.

The white sauce speaks for itself.

## 3. "Sexotheque"

It is no longer just a song, but an anthem to the office. Groan all you want, a classic can never be overplayed.

## 4. It is a place to grow

Though cheesy, it is the

truth. To see myself grow from an issue staffer to the editor of a department is a testament to how much you can learn from the bad asses working alongside you.

\*Note: please ignore any infographic I created for my first three semesters. They are poor representation of this growth stuff I'm talking about.

## 5. The office fire of 2016

## 6. Naps

I interpret my grotesque number of naps taken in this office as a sign of comfortability with the basement. It is a safe space to kill time between classes and catch up on the sleep you missed from working in the same office the night before.

## 7. Tryout pizza

Tryout pizzas are like the tryouts themselves: repetitive, boring and always in unhealthy quantities. Yet, at the end of the day we still come back for more.

## 8. The Reese's rat

## 9. The design department

My home away from home, the design department is where I found a place at this monstrosity of a university. We are a tiny but mighty department, and I'll be damned if I ever find a group of peo-

ple more collectively smart and creative in my life.

## 10. The people

There are the dads in sports, the mad scientists in SciTech, the troopers in news, the funny people who make even funnier

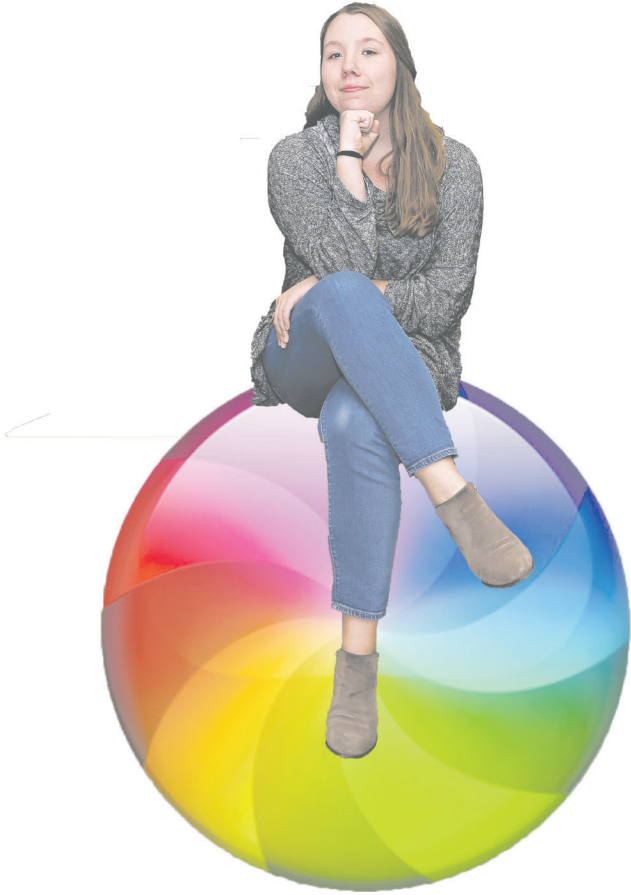
comics, Spielberg's protégés in video, the unseen coders in tech, the cool kids writing about life and art, the opinionated, the tweeters and Instagram feeders, the copy kittens correcting stories and my poor choices in music, the

photographers who I'm still waiting on a caption from and the people with superhuman abilities managing them all. Oh, and that little department bringing all these beautiful people together to make papers, the designers.

I've helped make a lot of papers over two and a half years, but what made each special was making them with all of you. Not my colleagues, but my friends.

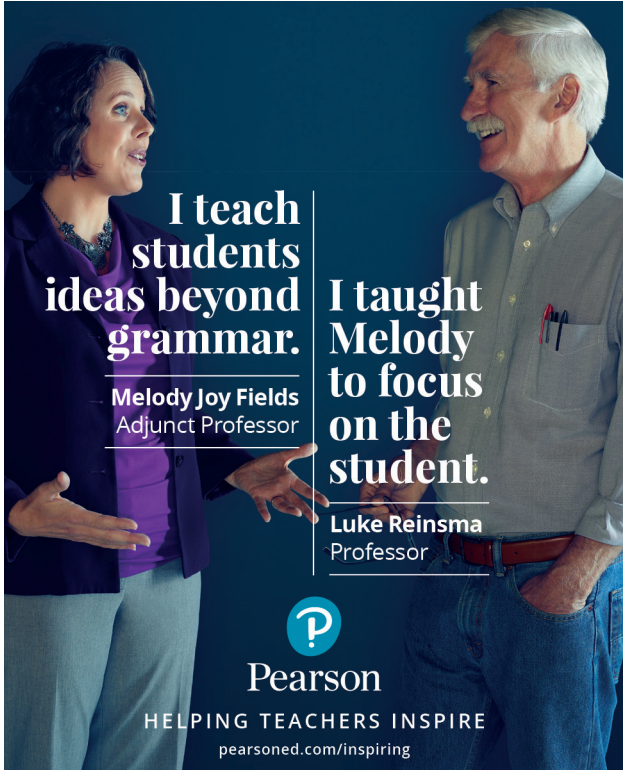
Oh, and Peter Chen is not bad.

—30—



Joshua Guerra and Daulton Venglar | Daily Texan Staff

Kelly Smith worked as the design editor for one semester. Previously, she was a design dog for one semester, a senior designer for two and associate design editor for one. She also has the self-proclaimed and often objected role of office DJ.



Joshua Guerra | Daily Texan Staff

Lillian Michel hates talking about herself. She thanks everyone at the Texan who ever advised her, listened to her, corrected her and made her laugh. She trusts that these people know who they are, but she is especially referring to Kelly and Anthony.



# Life&Arts editor says peace out for last time

By Elizabeth Hlavinka  
@hlavinka\_e

During my first day as the Life&Arts editor, a sinking feeling settled in the pit of my stomach.

It was the same feeling I had standing in front of the Tower, parking my bike on a rack when I got a phone call from a certain angry someone.

It was the same feeling I had when I got a similar call stepping onto Zilker to cover ACL this year.

It was the same feeling I had when I stood before Danielle, helmet in hand, hoping to be hired.

It was the “Oh, shit,” feeling.

I didn’t know what I was doing. I didn’t know how many stories went in a newspaper or how many words were in an inch. I didn’t know how to manage people.

I thought “Life&Arts” was “Life & Arts.”

I felt like a phony following Danielle and Cat’s goddess leadership. I was afraid.

But the things you’re afraid of are what give you the greatest opportunities for growth. And during my time at the Texan, I have grown — as a reporter, an editor and as a person.

I didn’t know if I wanted to be a journalist when I joined the Texan. It only took one semester for me to be hooked.



Elizabeth Hlavinka wrote for Life&Arts for two semesters and served as the section editor this semester. Her time at the Texan can be compared to having a bucket of ping pong balls thrown at her: At first, she didn’t know what was going on, but soon she realized how much fun she was having.

Daulton Venglar  
Daily Texan Staff

I started spending hours in the basement, rewriting ledes, trying to soak up my editors’ wisdom and learning how to be a real journalist.

Danielle: When I pitched things I thought were important and needed to be taken seriously, you gave me a chance. When I showed up at your doorstep, desperately wanting to join the L&A

Cool Kids, you gave me a chance. Thank you for that.

Megan: You make the office a home. Don’t ever stop announcing your half birthdays.

Cat: You’ve taught me how to run the section. You’ve taught me how to get as much free stuff as I can and to fight for what I want. You’ve taught me just go for it.

KT: At first, I was too intimidated by your pitches on magic clubs, furies and emo puppet bands to talk to you. Little did I know, all it took was dumping some Jell-O on a stapler for us to become an unstoppable force. I know you’ll claim you’re “just doing your job,” but I owe you a big thank you for all that you’ve done this semester and beyond —

that includes The Ritual and being there when I almost went “Live.”

Chris, Charles and Brian: We pretty much always gave you guys a hard time, but the truth is, you made the basement fun.

Peter: Thank you for the advice, guidance and ping pong.

The people at the Texan are what have made that

feeling I felt, standing before Danielle my first day in the office, disappear. I’ve overcome the fear.

But as I drop my last story as Life&Arts editor and say goodbye to the Texan, I feel the same feeling settle in the pit of my stomach. Now it’s time to do something else that scares the hell out of me.

—30—

## Longtime Life&Arts editor marks end of Texan era

By Cat Cardenas  
@crcardenas

I knew I wanted to join the Life&Arts section when I saw the picture of Justin Timberlake pinned to its bulletin board. There were stacks of books and CDs and two girls who seemed impossibly cool at the desk.

I was supposed to have been at NYU, and when I walked into that office, I was convinced that nothing would ever come close to my New York City daydreams. But, as it turns out, it was always supposed to be UT. It was always supposed to be the Texan.

This newspaper has given me everything. It’s been my saving grace, the main source of my stress and my home for three years.

I didn’t have a clue what I was doing with my life, but once I walked down those basement steps, once I resigned myself to spending countless days away from the sun and away from the rest of the campus, I got to travel the world. I spent nights at the Armadillo with Zappa, and I

hung out at the punk clubs where SXSW and the Austin film scene were born. The paper took me to the streets of San Francisco and 4,500 miles away to Rio de Janeiro.

It brought me to Pace Bend Park, where I had one of the best nights of my life.

Every semester, this paper gave me more than I could’ve asked for and more than I deserved.

Danielle, you made me an infinitely better writer, you showed me what L&A should be and could be and even though I tried, I never could’ve filled your shoes when you left.

Marisa, since I met you at orientation, we’ve accidentally done everything together. You’ve always dreamed big with me and I hope I run into you our first day at The Boston Globe or The New York Times.

KT, your unquestioning support and friendship has been one of the best things to come out of this job. We’re both chaotic messes, but I’m so glad we have each other.

Elizabeth, at first I thought you were just the quiet girl who would churn out 800-word stories at 6 p.m. But then you let out a ridiculous burp. I’m so happy I spent my last semester here with you and KT. I watched you guys go from our best writers to editors, and I seriously couldn’t be prouder of you and everything we accomplished together.

Megan, I was so excited when you told me you wanted the associate L&A position at Danielle’s grad party. I was less excited when you totally forgot about it a week later. I needed you to balance out KT’s hangriness and hatred of the Kardashians.

Chris, I never thought I’d be happy to have met the most annoying human being ever. You’re a great concert buddy, podcast partner and adequate music reviewer. You’re the person I complained about the most to anyone who would listen, but the past three years wouldn’t have been the same without you.

Charles and Brian: You two are some of the most



Joshua Guerra | Daily Texan Staff

Cat Cardenas has served as a writer, associate editor and editor in the Life&Arts department. She had a brief, crazy stint as summer managing editor, before returning to her home by the basement door.

lovably pretentious people I’ve ever met and somehow still far less wrong than Chris — except about superhero movies and The Beatles, respectively.

Peter, you’re the only person who could’ve convinced me to step away

from L&A and try to be ME. Thanks for all the life advice that I’ll probably still demand from you even after I’m gone.

Like everything else I’ve ever written here, I waited until the last possible minute to write this. If I’m being hon-

est, I don’t want this goodbye to be real. But it’s time for a new era in Life&Arts, and I know the section is in great hands.

I’m leaving, but I want to remember this place. Every detail.

—30—

## Associate editor reflects on long, strange trip at the Texan

By Katie Walsh  
@katiehannawalsh

There is a very, very, very old Cinnabon inside The Daily Texan vending machine I frequent every afternoon. For almost two years, I have considered paying the \$2 for it. But every day, I choose a Snickers or Peanut M&M’s instead.

It makes me sad that while I left the Texan basement for good Sunday, it gets to stay.

I’ve never been more jealous of an expired pastry.

I’ve had the time of my life writing, rewriting, editing, spin jammering, arguing, crying and laughing in the basement. Being a writer allowed me to meet some of the best people I’ve ever known, but the true gems weren’t the funky magicians or puppeteers I interviewed, they were the people writing stories right next to me.

First, all I knew was Kat and Danielle. I journaled about how much they

intimidated me, but at the end of every fearful line, I couldn’t help but marvel at the way they so naturally demanded respect. I’ve never known leaders quite like them.

While Kat and Danielle scared me (at first), Marisa put me at ease. We bonded over Thoreau, being wallflowers at parties and a midnight dress swap in a Sixth Street alley.

Chris and Charles won me over next. Neither knew that I often repeated the opinions they wrote in their reviews outside the basement and spun them as my own. Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery? Chris, sorry you didn’t land a spot in the lede as you requested, but thanks for buying me Magnums (the ice cream), telling the occasional good joke and caring about the paper so much.

Thanks Brian for teaching me about RPGs and NPCs, two terms I hope never come in handy in my future. And thanks Bevo XIV for

dying, because that brought Jamie and I together.

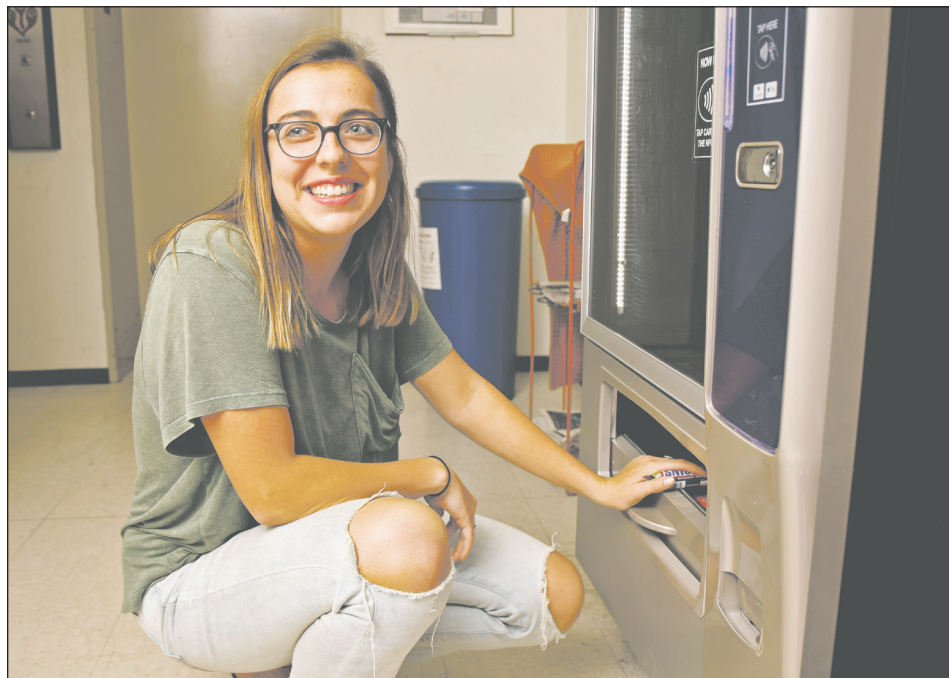
Eventually I found the girls I’d run L&A with: Megan, Cat and Elizabeth.

We must have edited a few hundred stories together, but for me, all I remember are the laughs.

Megan, the jokes Cat and I made both at and with you will forever make me chuckle. You are the blurb queen, a Spotify hog and the ideal person to walk home with every night.

Cat, you are the best worst influence in my life. If Megan was the angel on my shoulder, you were my “scrappy” devil. Thanks for always defending me in the GroupMe and being the glue that brought this little dysfunctional family together.

Elizabeth, we fell into perfect sync the night you brought me a stapler stuck in Jell-O and haven’t fallen out since. Thanks for the nods and silent side glances that reaffirmed we were always on the same page. My afternoons won’t



Daulton Venglar | Daily Texan Staff

Katie Walsh has worked as an associate Life&Arts editor for two semesters. Previously, she was a senior and issue Life&Arts writer. She also appeared on a podcast with Chris once but remained mostly silent.

be the same without your periodic burps.

And Peter, thanks for caring about us so much. Pardone the cliché, but you are the real hero without

a cape.

It’s going to be a bummer walking up the urine-soaked basement stairs for the last time, squashing dead crickets with every

step, but I feel beyond lucky to have been a part of something that is so hard to say goodbye to.

Life&Arts out.

—30—



FOOD REVIEW | EASTSIDE TAVERN

# EastSide Tavern brings neighborhood BBQ

By Stephen Acevedo  
@thedailytexan

After exploring the best barbecue joints in and around Austin for the past two years, business partners Matt Carter, John Koriath and Clarissa Alcantara decided to try their hand at the popular Texas cuisine with EastSide Tavern.

“We’ve been working on this project for about a year,” Carter said. “We had never done barbecue before, but we’ve always loved it and wanted to give it a go.”

Carter said their lack of barbecuing experience wasn’t an issue because they enlisted the help of pitmaster and chef Cade Mercer from Lambert’s Downtown Barbecue to curate their menu and run the barbecue pit out back.

“We really want to bring back the East Coast tavern atmosphere where it’s a very neighborhood feel,” Carter said. “You can come in and have a great meal, but you can also come in when you’re by yourself and grab a drink at the bar.”

Managing partner Alan Hernandez said while he and his partners have settled on a menu at EastSide Tavern for the time being, they are open to adding and subtracting menu items based on customer feedback to keep things fresh and exciting.

“I want to make sure that we’re keeping everyone interested,” Hernandez said. “Austin’s a big community where we can all teach each other something.”

In only its first week of business, EastSide Tavern is already showing plenty of potential to become a household name, not just on the East Side but throughout the entire city, with customers coming from campus, North Austin and the downtown area.

It is immediately apparent that the barbecue is smoked



The Top Dog platter at EastSide Tavern offers a three-meat combination of sausage, ribs and brisket. Recently opened, EastSide Tavern shows plenty of potential but still has a few kinks to work out.

Juan Figueroa | Daily Texan Staff

by someone who knows what he’s doing on the pit. The brisket, in particular, shines above everything else. It’s moist, tender and well-seasoned to the point of not requiring any sauce. It’s very similar to the brisket from popular Central Texas joints like Southside Market and The Salt Lick with just enough fat for maximum flavor.

The ribs are also well-executed. Instead of “falling off the bone” as many people think they should, they are

firm with just enough give to allow for the bone to be completely cleared of meat.

EastSide doesn’t just stop at the barbecue basics. The menu features everything from sandwiches and burgers to salads. It has plenty of hits, but some sides and appetizers fall short of expectations.

The brisket cheddar tater tots, in particular, are anticlimactic. Instead of being piled on top along with the cheese, the brisket is mixed in with the tater tots and settles to

the bottom of the dish. It comes off as a lot of effort for little payoff.

“The tater tots were good, they just weren’t as exciting as their description made them seem,” customer and economics senior Ryan Fraissinet said.

The two best specialty items on the menu are the brisket patty melt and smoked chicken wings. The brisket patty melt substantially improves the classic sandwich by replacing cheap

ground beef with quality-smoked brisket. The smoked chicken wings are simple, but the smoke flavor from the pit and the spice of the buffalo sauce they are coated in makes for a great combination.

It’s clear that the folks at EastSide Tavern still have some kinks to work out, but it has all the essential tools to become one of the more popular barbecue stops in Austin.

“We want people to

**EASTSIDE TAVERN**  
**Location:** 1510 E. Cesar Chavez St.  
**Hours:** Tuesday–Sunday 11 a.m.–10 a.m.  
**Recommended Dish:** Brisket Patty Melt  
**Rating:** 7/10

genuinely want to come here,” Hernandez said. “We want people to hang out. We want them to feel like even though it’s new, it’s a staple in Austin.”



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